



JPRS Report

Arms Control

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N O T I C E

NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS REPORT TO BE RENAMED

Beginning with JPRS-TND-91-010, the JPRS REPORT: NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS will be renamed JPRS REPORT: PROLIFERATION ISSUES. Its content will remain unchanged except that information on *ballistic missiles* and *biological weapons* will now appear in this report instead of the JPRS REPORT: ARMS CONTROL. This material will be included with other proliferation items under the appropriate geographic heading. Information on treaties governing the production, possession, and use of chemical and biological weapons will continue to appear under appropriate geographic headings in the ARMS CONTROL report.

Subscribers to the NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS report will experience no lapse in receipts when this change takes effect. Subscribers to the ARMS CONTROL report who wish to subscribe to the PROLIFERATION ISSUES report should consult the back cover for subscription information.

Arms Control

JPRS-TAC-91-013

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Bush Asks Nations To Join Chemical Weapons Ban

OW1605134791 Beijing XINHUA in English
1208 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Geneva, May 16 (XINHUA)—U.S. President George Bush urged nations around the world on Thursday to join the United States' effort for achieving an effective chemical weapons ban as soon as possible.

In a message to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, Bush expressed the hope that a U.S. initiative in banning toxic weapons would spur other nations to commit themselves equally to a world-wide convention.

"I especially call upon the participants in this conference to exert every effort toward this target and to set themselves the goal of resolving all major outstanding issues by the end of 1991 and completing the chemical weapons convention within the next 12 months," he said.

A possible global chemical weapons convention, which is designed to ban the development, production and use of chemical weapons and eliminate all stocks, is being discussed by the 40-member U.N. conference.

The United States has announced that it will drop its insistence on retaining a right of retaliation with chemical weapons.

The U.S. also said that it would unconditionally destroy all of its chemical weapons stocks and production facilities within ten years of the enactment of the convention.

The offer to renounce chemical weapons was made partly because American experts believe the use of those types of weapons had been devalued in the Gulf war. Iraq, believed to have chemical weapons, did not use them to deter attacks by allied troops.

The Bush administration is also concerned that other countries will seek to develop chemical weapons.

Ambassador Stephen Ledogar, U.S. representative to the U.N. conference, submitted the initiative on behalf of the American Government.

Expressing a sense of urgency, Ledogar proposed that the conference's ad hoc committee on chemical weapons stay in continuous session until the convention is completed to "ensure that no time is lost and no opportunity is wasted."

"Given the urgency of ridding the world of these weapons of terror, we cannot afford to continue 'business as usual' in our negotiations," he said.

Bush Meeting With Moiseyev on CFE Dispute Reported

OW2205102491 Beijing XINHUA in English
0717 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Washington, May 21 (XINHUA)—U.S. President George Bush met with Chief of Soviet General Staff Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev today to discuss the dispute over implementation of the conventional disarmament [CFE] treaty.

During the 15 minute-meeting, Bush reaffirmed the U.S. and Western position concerning the treaty signed by NATO and Warsaw Pact countries in Paris last November, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said in a statement.

The dispute is over the fate of 1,107 tanks, armored personnel carriers and other pieces of military equipment the United States charged that the Soviet Union has turned those force into marine to avoid the cutback required by the treaty.

The United States also said that this dispute should be solved before the delayed U.S.-Soviet summit is held.

Moiseyev, who arrived here Monday, had a round of meetings with senior U.S. administration officials at the State Department and Defense Department in the past two days. But, the differences between the two sides seemingly have not been solved.

It is unclear whether the talks will continue tomorrow or whether Moiseyev will go back to Moscow.

U.S.-Soviet CFE Talks Said To Go Well

OW2305083991 Beijing XINHUA in English
0053 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Washington, May 22 (XINHUA)—U.S. President George Bush said today that the U.S.-Soviet talks on conventional arms reduction [CFE] talks went "very well."

Before leaving for St. Paul, Minnesota, Bush told reporters that there was "some progress" in the recent meetings between U.S. officials and Soviet Chief of Staff Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev, who is now visiting Washington.

The United States and the Soviet Union have disputes over the implementation of the conventional arms reduction treaty signed by NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries in Paris last November.

The United States has accused the Soviet Union of turning more than 1,000 tanks and military personnel into marine in order to avoid the cutbacks required by the treaty.

"The experts told me after the Moiseyev meeting that they felt there was some reason to be optimistic," Bush said.

"But, it's at a stage where we need to confidential discussions going on," Bush said.

Referring to the U.S.-Soviet Moscow Summit delayed partly due to the dispute over arms control, Bush said a

story that says we don't want a summit is "crazy." "I assured (Mikhail) Gorbachev of that personally," he added.

He said that no decisions have been taken on whether Soviet President Gorbachev will be invited to the G-7 summit to be held in London in July.

CAMBODIA

Vietnamese Use of 'Poison' Against Inhabitants Charged

BK2405061091 (*Clandestine*) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 May 91

["Report from Kompong Thom Province"]

[Text] Many people have died in Kompong Thom Province. Was this because of cholera or because of poisons used by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors?

The Vietnamese enemy aggressors recently ordered their puppets, traitors to the nation, and lackeys, to shout and deceive others that in Kompong Thom Province there was an outbreak of cholera causing the death of 77 people and that over 400 others are still seriously ill.

Reports from the people in Kompong Thom Province say that in truth, many people died in Kompong Thom Province because of the use of poisons by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators to kill our people. The Vietnamese enemy aggressors and the puppets, traitors to the nation and Vietnam's lackeys, are the ones who directly kill the people.

The trick is to poison pools, small reservoirs, and streams at the height of the dry season. When seriously short of water, the people, unaware of the poisoning, consume this water. Some of the people died instantly on the spot; others fainted. Some people had diarrhea or vomited while others were seriously ill.

The Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and puppet ringleaders Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim, traitors to the nation and Vietnam's lackeys, have not paid any attention to those who died or are being affected. This is a criminal trick of massacring the people through poisons and then using the excuse of cholera to cover it up so that people do not realize the dirty trick.

JAPAN

Reports on UN Kyoto Disarmament Conference

Kaifu Urges Controls on Arms Trade

OW2705143591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0144 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Kyoto, May 27 (KYODO)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu appealed for stricter controls on the worldwide sale of weapons and missile technology in an address Monday to the second U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues in Kyoto, western Japan.

"We must make every effort to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and missile

systems," Kaifu told the audience of 130 forum participants, guests, and observers at the Kyoto International Conference Hall.

Kaifu, who proposed the staging of a disarmament confab shortly after the conclusion of the Persian Gulf crisis, said the seven-week war underlined the need to limit arms sales to developing nations beyond their "reasonable" defense needs.

"International arms transfers, access to weapons-related technologies, and arms proliferation together enabled Iraq to build an enormous military machine far exceeding any realistic self-defense needs," he said, referring to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent war to expel Iraqi troops from there.

Japanese Government sources indicated last week that the prime minister plans to propose during July's meeting of seven major economic powers in London that the United Nations monitor arms exports to the Middle East to prevent the reemergence of a regional military power such as Iraq.

On Monday, Kaifu outlined his ideas to the 98 government officials, military and defense experts, scholars, and critics participating in the four-day forum on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, regional concerns in disarmament issues, and the costs of turning back the clock on decades of global military buildup.

Among his proposals, Kaifu urged the framework of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty be strengthened "to ensure that the ranks of nuclear-weapon states do not increase."

He said it is "regrettable" that some nations do not comply with international inspection standards, apparently alluding to North Korea's alleged efforts to build nuclear weapons facilities outside of Pyongyang.

Kaifu said Japan plans to submit a draft resolution to the United Nations this fall calling for increased transparency in international arms trade.

On the practical level, he added Japan is ready to cooperate with upgrading the U.N. disarmament bureau's database system to enhance monitoring of arms transfers.

Kaifu said increased spending on arms buildups is "an obstacle to social and economic development," and reaffirmed Japan's plans to tie economic assistance to developing nations to "trends in military spending" and "activities in the arms trade."

Kaifu closed with an appeal for a "comprehensive approach" to disarmament, urging a resolution to the political differences that underlie the "the pursuit for military readiness."

Yasushi Akashi, U.N. undersecretary general for disarmament, foreshadowed the discussions for the next four days by pointing to the need for regional concepts in

disarmament, the problems of proliferation, and the costs and side effects of disarmament.

Calling the aim of the conference ambitious, Akashi urged the participants to "take stock of the international situation at a time of rapid change and to explore how current trends may shape our future multilateral negotiating endeavors on security and disarmament in the future."

The first Kyoto disarmament conference, emphasizing a candid exchange of opinions among participants, was held in April 1989. A similar conference limited to technology and disarmament was held in Sendai in northern Japan last year.

Participants Appeal for Action

*OW2705084291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0732 GMT
27 May 91*

[By William May]

[Text] Kyoto, May 27 (KYODO)—Participants in the second U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues in Kyoto opened Monday with pleas not to let the opportunities for new disarmament strategies available in the post-cold war, post-Persian Gulf War environment to slip away.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu opened the four-day confab at the Kyoto International Conference Hall with an appeal for stricter controls on the worldwide transfer of weapons and related technology.

Kaifu said Japan will propose a draft resolution to the United Nations this fall calling for increased transparency in international weapons sales and offered to help the U.N. Disarmament Bureau upgrade its database system for monitoring sales.

Participants in the opening plenary session on disarmament challenges in postwar international society echoed Kaifu's calls for increased transparency, citing Iraq's arms buildup as a root cause of last winter's Gulf war.

In addition to transparency, Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Gareth Evans urged the signing of conventions on the weapons of mass destruction—chemical, biological, and nuclear.

Evans also voiced concern over North Korea's refusal to comply with the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and urged forum participants to take "all bilateral and multilateral opportunities" to make their concern known.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus pointed to a security conference scheduled for Manila next week as a prime example of the "new modalities" and "regional consultative forums" endorsed recently by the U.S. Disarmament Commission in New York.

The forum, initiated within the association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), will seek to discuss security

concerns with the region's nations as well as the United States, Japan, the Soviet Union, China, and other nations.

Manglapus noted the global arms race now costs 1 trillion dollars and developing nations spend 170 billion dollars on arms annually—more than four times that spent on health and greater than twice the amount allocated for education by those nations.

The Philippine foreign minister, noting his own nation overthrew "the unhampered despot (former president Ferdinand Marcos)...without a shot by massive people power," strongly urged that the U.N. "return to its roots" and let democratic forces fuel disarmament in the world.

"Let peoples everywhere speak out freely their will to disarm, their demand that their money and the resources of the earth be invested in the feeding and curing of humans rather than in their destruction," Manglapus said.

Ronald Lehmann II, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, reiterated President George Bush's pledge to do away with all chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities within 10 years of a chemical weapons convention.

Saying the U.S. is determined to rid the world of chemical arms made notorious during the Gulf war, Lehmann also called for the strengthening of a biological weapons convention and making adherence universal.

He further stressed that signers of the chemical weapons convention benefit, while relevant trade is denied to states not party to the agreement.

Vladimir Petrovskiy, the Kremlin's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, hailed the "new political environment" in which the four-day Kyoto conference is being staged.

The first Kyoto confab in April 1989 underlined a number of Soviet and American differences in their views of disarmament and nuclear deterrence.

But on Monday, Petrovsky noted arms control processes and mechanisms have brought the world "closer to the establishment of a foundation for transparent and verifiable deterrence to be predicated not on mutual terror, but on assurance of the absence of mutual threat and on a high degree of openness and confidence in the military area."

Conferees Disagree on Accord

*OW2805134191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT
28 May 91*

[By William May]

[Text] Kyoto, May 28 (KYODO)—Participants in the United Nations-sponsored Conference on Disarmament here Tuesday concurred the post-Persian Gulf war

period is the time to act on arms limitations, but disagreed on the scope and nature of arms conventions.

Johan Nordenfelt, a UN Department of Disarmament Affairs officer, remarked that forum participants generally agree "The post-Gulf war period has created a psychological and political moment for action."

But Tuesday's plenary sessions were marked by an animated debate over whether arms conventions should be total or partial, what weapons and related technology should be restricted, and how bans or limitations should be verified.

The assembly appeared to agree limitations on nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons will be easier to achieve, Nordenfelt pointed out, while there is less agreement on high technology conventional weapons.

Hendrik Wagenmakers, the Netherlands' ambassador to the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, predicted a chemical arms convention may be realized within a year.

On restrictions of arms transfers, the debate returned to transparency and the need for a UN information exchange or registry of international arms transactions.

The development of high technology conventional arms presented a special problem to the symposium as some delegates called for stricter controls on the transfer of weapons-related technology.

Others, however, argued that much of the technology used to enhance conventional arms was "dual use" or emerged from private research.

John Simpson, director of the Mountbatten Centre for International Studies at the University of Southampton in Britain, took a critical view of technological developments enabling existing weapons to be used in a more effective manner and widening the gap between the "have's" and "have-nots's."

Simpson argued this only benefits the U.S. and its allies and creates a "new international order based on Western and Northern ideas of international peace and security."

The discussion on the nonproliferation of arms touched upon an idea of "defensive defense structures," to which Japan was held up as the example.

It was argued a purely defensive military structure like Japan's would do away with the need for an arms race.

On the topic of verification, Swadash Rana, UN disarmament affairs monitoring coordinator, remarked, "Verification, which was an obstacle to the process of disarmament in the cold war era, has now become a very good tool for arriving at mutually acceptable agreements in the post-cold war era."

Andrey Kozyrev, foreign affairs minister for the Soviet Russian Republic, offered a paper on the problems of converting a large military-oriented industrial complex to peaceful purposes.

"The costs of conversion might be considerable," said Rana, adding, "The so-called 'peace dividend' may require an initial investment before it becomes available."

NORTH KOREA

Text of Commentary Urging U.S. Nuclear Withdrawal

SK2105111991 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1025 GMT 21 May 91

["It Is Time for U.S. To Act With Reason"; Commentary of NODONG SINMUN"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today carries a signed commentary entitled "It Is Time for U.S. To Act With Reason."

The full text of the commentary reads:

The removal of the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula today stands out as an urgent matter which brooks no further delay for peace and peaceful reunification of Korea and for peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The DPRK Government, aware of its heavy responsibility and mission for the nation and humanity, has put forward a series of peace overtures including the proposal for denuclearising the Korean peninsula and made efforts to put them into effect and joined the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], with a view to removing the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and dispelling the nuclear threat to our people. Despite our sincere efforts, the danger of nuclear war is steadily increasing and the nuclear threat to our people growing day by day on the Korean peninsula. This causes great uneasiness among the entire Korean nation and serious apprehensions among the world's people who cherish justice and peace.

The danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula comes from South Korea, not from the North. This is a stark reality that no one can deny. That is why those who impartially follow the situation of the Korean peninsula with a sound thinking power lift up voices for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea first of all to preserve peace in this part of the world. In this context, foreign news reports recently said U.S.-Soviet secret negotiation on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea was under way and this problem was being examined within the United States so as to solve the issue of the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord by the DPRK, drawing the attention of people.

We approach these reports with keen interest. If these reports are true, the United States may be considered to be showing signs of taking a fair stand though belatedly,

to remove the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and settle the problem of signing of the nuclear safeguards accord by the DPRK. This is worth being welcomed by the Korean and the world people.

The danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula came into being when the United States began deploying more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea where there had been no nuclear arms. The danger has grown with the preparations for a nuclear war against the DPRK stepped up by the United States. If the United States had not deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea and had not resorted to nuclear war moves there, there would have existed no danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and no nuclear threat to the DPRK. The U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea are the source of the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and the factor posing a nuclear threat to us.

This being the fact, it is outrageous for the United States to claim that the nuclear weapons in South Korea do not pose a threat to the DPRK.

If the nuclear weapons in South Korea do not pose a threat to us, why does the United States intend to keep them there? If the U.S. did not intend to threaten or attack the DPRK with nuclear weapons, why are they so afraid of making a commitment to nuclear safeguards for the DPRK and so reluctant to decide to withdraw the nuclear weapons from South Korea?

It is self-evident that we cannot sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord [NSA] as long as the United States keeps nuclear weapons in South Korea and constantly threatens us. In this connection, we would like to ask how the United States would act if they were in our position. As history tells, the United States once raised a hue and cry over the missiles deployed in other's territory, not in its own land, contending that they were posing a threat to the security of the United States. When a nuclear-powered submarine navigated under the coastal waters off the United States in the Pacific, the United States made much ado, alleging that its security was exposed to danger. If any other country had divided the United States into North and South or into East and West, deployed troops and nuclear weapons in one part and constantly staged nuclear war exercises, how the Americans would react to it?

It is not we who are to blame for the delay of our signing the NSA. It is precisely because the United States fails to give commitment to nuclear safeguards for the DPRK and does not take measures to remove nuclear threat to the DPRK. For the United States to keep nuclear weapons in South Korea, threaten the DPRK and increase the danger of nuclear war is a violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is a rude act devoid of reason for the United States to urge the DPRK to sign the NSA and allow nuclear inspections while failing to fulfill its obligation under the NPT. This unfair act of the United States can never win sympathy from the sober-minded people. If the United States makes a promise to

guarantee our safety and takes a measure to remove nuclear threat to us, it might be welcomed by people as a realistic act complying with the demand of the times. That would enable us to sign the NSA with the International Atomic Energy Agency and would contribute to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation system worldwide and would help the United States save its face as the country with which the NPT is deposited and improve its marred image.

In order to remove the danger of nuclear war and preserve peace on the Korean peninsula, we and the United States must have a direct negotiation.

The unofficial contact between the DPRK and the U.S. is a good thing. But it must be developed on to a due level.

Then, it would be a new sign of a thaw in the frozen relations between the DPRK and the United States and it would be possible to find a solution acceptable to both sides to the problems of our signing the NSA and the removal of nuclear threat to us. The peaceloving people of the world want the United States to act reasonably before it is too late.

Daily Stresses Need for Nuclear-Free Peace Zone

*SK2405110491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1040 GMT 24 May 91*

["Struggle for Establishment of Nuclear-Free, Peace Zone is Important Way of Guaranteeing Peace and Security in Asia"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 24 (KCNA)—The struggle for establishing a nuclear-free, peace zone is an important way to remove the practical factor and danger of nuclear war and guarantee peace and security in Asia, says MINJU CHOSON today in a by-lined article titled "Important Condition for Peace and Security in Asia".

The U.S. imperialists have concentrated huge forces of aggression in the Asian and Pacific region and frantically staged adventurous war exercises, the article says, and continues:

The main objective of the U.S. imperialist in Asian and Pacific region is to control socialist countries and progressive forces with their strength, establish domination over this region and make a breakthrough of world supremacy.

In order to guarantee peace and security in Asia, the peaceloving people in this region should wage a vigorous struggle to hold in check the reckless military expansion and arms buildup of the U.S. imperialists, dismantle the aggressive military bases and force the U.S. troops to withdraw.

It is of great importance in ensuring peace and security in Asia to ease tension and preserve peace on the Korean peninsula where the danger of war is greatest.

To remove the danger of war and ensure peace on the Korean peninsula, it is imperative to force the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea and make the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities stop their war provocation moves.

The Government of the DPRK will actively strive to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and defend peace and security in the Korean peninsula and Asia, stresses the article.

SOUTH KOREA

North, South Participate in UN Kyoto Disarmament Talks

*SK1805014491 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
18 May 91 p 2*

[Dispatch from correspondent Kang Chon-sok in Tokyo]

[Text] For the first time, North and South Korea will simultaneously dispatch delegations to the second UN Conference on Disarmament Issues to be held in Kyoto, Japan, from 27 to 30 May.

The ambassador extraordinary in charge of security from the ROK side, and the chief of the disarmament section of the Foreign Ministry from the North Korean side, will attend the forthcoming disarmament talks.

This is the first case in which the North and South of Korea have simultaneously attended extensive disarmament talks. It has been learned that during the Kyoto talks there is a great possibility of discussing the issues of North Korea allowing nuclear inspection and of security in Asia. Some 60 experts from 37 nations have said they will attend the talks.

NEW ZEALAND

Bolger Denies Softening Stance on Nuclear Tests

*BK2005064491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 20 May 91*

[Text] New Zealand says it is not softening its position on French nuclear testing in the Pacific despite its change of protesting procedure. The New Zealand prime minister, Jim Bolger, protested against the current series of underground tests at Mururoa 8 May, changing its previous practice of protesting directly after each test.

The state-run television station for French Polynesia, RFO, suggested this was a possible softening of New Zealand's position following the visit of former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard last month to New Zealand.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of External Relations and Trade, Jeff Ward, told Radio Australia that this was a misrepresentation of New Zealand's position and New Zealand had in no way weakened its position.

However, Greenpeace's Stephanie Mills has urged the government not to cut back on protests. She said that if New Zealand does not directly protest after each test, the whole impact is lost.

France set off its second underground nuclear blast in 11 days at the Mururoa Atoll site yesterday.

Protest Procedure for Nuclear Tests Altered

Government Still Opposed to Testing

*BK2105031291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0218 GMT
21 May 91*

[Text] Wellington, May 21 (AFP)—New Zealand has given up protesting every single French nuclear test in the South Pacific and will now issue protests as each series of tests starts, a spokesman for Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said Tuesday.

It was "a change in procedure, not a change in policy" he said.

Opposition leader Mike Moore said the government's decision not to protest each nuclear test was "a major and serious policy reversal." In a statement, he said New Zealand's silence would be regarded as tacit approval.

France exploded a nuclear device Sunday at Mururoa Atoll but for the first time New Zealand made no comment, drawing a claim from the environmental movement Greenpeace that New Zealanders would be outraged at the failure to condemn tests.

But Mr. McKinnon's spokesman said Prime Minister Jim Bolger had condemned the latest test series on May 8, the day the series started.

He said the government remained opposed to nuclear testing and the change in procedure was made because the French had announced the series. Previously, he said, New Zealand only found out about tests after the seismic station at Rarotonga recorded the first blast.

He added, "the prime minister recently announced his opposition to the testing at a press conference with the French prime minister (then Michel Rocard).

"We make protests at the South Pacific Forum, in the United Nations. New Zealand's opposition has been made at the very highest levels," he said.

Policy Said 'Weakening' on Tests

*BK2105101291 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 0803 GMT 21 May 91*

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] In New Zealand the government is under fire for not following previous procedure in condemning the latest French nuclear tests in the South Pacific. The opposition leader, Mike Moore, says there has been a serious policy reversal and New Zealand's silence about

yesterday's test will be interpreted as tacit approval for it. Conservation groups are also angry. In response, Prime Minister Jim Bolger says New Zealand's opposition to French testing remains undiminished. Our Wellington correspondent, Brendon Byrnes reports.

[Begin recording] [Byrnes] It has been the practice for many years for New Zealand to announce nuclear tests in French Polynesia with these being detected by a New Zealand monitoring station in the Cook Islands. Each test announcement was accompanied by criticism of the test and by New Zealand's wish for the testing to end. But Sunday's 60-kiloton explosion announced in Paris under a new more open regime about the testing program drew no comment from the Bolger government in Wellington.

The environmental organization, Greenpeace, amongst others says this indicates a weakening of the Government's opposition to French nuclear testing. Greenpeace claims a French television channel noted the lack of New Zealand protest and interpreted this as indicating reduced concern about nuclear tests.

Opposition Labor Party leader, Mike Moore, says such interpretations will occur if there is a lack of criticism about each test. He says it is expected of New Zealand to protest and failure to do so is a serious policy reversal. But, Prime Minister Jim Bolger says New Zealand's concern about French nuclear testing remains unchanged. Mr. Bolger issued a statement earlier this month when the latest testing series began saying the tests were unwelcome and did not help France's standing as a positive partner in South Pacific affairs. Mr. Bolger said the same stern message was given to former French prime minister, Michel Rocard, who visited New Zealand 3 weeks ago, shortly before his resignation.

[Bolger] And I repeat that I made it very clear in the discussions that I had with Prime Minister Rocard that our view was that those tests should not continue; we did not want them in the Pacific. If the French believed that they were so secure instead, well then, there is a lot of scope and space on mainland France. Now, we have not diminished (?one iota) from that position. And I do suggest that to just put out a simple statement every few days does not make our strength of opposition any stronger, and conversely by not doing it make it any weaker.

[Byrnes] Prime Minister Bolger says with France now announcing the tests, there is [word indistinct] occasion for New Zealand to express its opposition, but a change of procedure does not mean a change of policy. France, he says, would be quite wrong to interpret matters in any other way and that New Zealand remains firmly opposed to nuclear testing in the South Pacific. [end recording]

PHILIPPINES

Foreign Secretary Calls For Independent Asian Security

OW1605121191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1143 GMT
16 May 91

[Text] Manila, May 16 (KYODO)—Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus on Thursday called on Southeast Asian nations to forge a security arrangement more independent from the United States, which has emerged as "the undisputed world power" after victory in the Persian Gulf.

Manglapus also urged the United Nations to provide a balance to the U.S. that will ensure that it would not abuse the power it now enjoys.

He called for a Southeast Asian regional security dialogue that is solidly based in the region and not "born in the drawing rooms of the (U.S.) State Department and the Pentagon."

Manglapus made the call during a speech before the 33rd anniversary ceremony of the Philippines-U.S. Mutual Defense Board (MDB), a body created in 1958 to jointly implement defense arrangements between the two countries.

Although he praised the U.S.'s restraint in not marching into Baghdad at the height of the Gulf war when it could have seized the Iraqi capital, Manglapus urged the UN to serve as the watchdog of the people of the world.

In his speech, Manglapus also noted that the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) formed during the early 1960's faded away because "the concept may have been valid but it was not born in the region."

He expressed hopes that the Southeast Asian security dialogue that will be held in Manila next month "will correct that mistake and will find a more solid base for cooperation than that which was provided in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization."

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, and Thailand—and Japan, the U.S., and other ASEAN dialogue partners are expected to attend the informal dialogue.

Manglapus' statements came in the wake of the stalled negotiations between Washington and Manila on a treaty that will cover the continued stay of U.S. military bases in the country after the current lease on them expires in September.

The talks have been snagged by the issue of how long the U.S. could continue to stay in the Philippines and for how much money.

The Philippines has proposed a seven-year treaty with annual compensation of 825 million dollars, while the United States has proposed a 10 year treaty with a yearly compensation of 360 million dollars.

U.S. Commander in Chief for the Pacific Command Adm. Charles Larson told reporters in a short interview before the MBD ceremony that "I am hopeful but I can't say I'm optimistic (about a treaty)."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Deputy Kocab Queried on Soviet Troop Withdrawal

*AU2305183091 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
15 May 91 p 2*

[Interview with Federal Assembly Deputy Michael Kocab by Nada Adamickova; place and date not given: "We Were Not Deceived"—first paragraph is RUDE PRAVO introduction]

[Text] The deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from CSFR territory—26 June—is drawing near, and speculations and fears about whether all Soviet citizens—that is, including civilians—will really leave are multiplying. Rumors are being voiced about the establishment of Czechoslovak-Soviet societies whose activity could be of various kinds. This is why I asked Michael Kocab, Federal Assembly deputy and chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for the Withdrawal of Soviet Troops, the following questions:

[Adamickova] Are those fears justified?

[Kocab] I have heard of those fears myself, and that is why I became interested in the matter. I met with all the responsible officials from our side, as well as from the Soviet side. General Vorobyov and other Soviet generals, as well as gentlemen from the Soviet Embassy, have assured me that as of 26 June no military or civilian persons will be present on our territory. If some societies are established—which is possible, since our law permits it—then it will only be possible after this date. To avoid concern that either side is involved in speculation, we want the withdrawal to be completed in the agreed upon manner. Otherwise, one thing we are very particular about could be put at risk—the possibility of building economic relations with the Soviet Union in the future. I repeat once more: We have received guarantees that no societies will be established before the complete withdrawal. I have received the same assurances from senior Czechoslovak Army representatives—Generals Nadovic, Pastor, and others. They are exerting maximum efforts to eliminate the presence of any Soviet soldier or civilian here as of 26 June. Officials from representative and trade organizations are another matter. Of course, this does not pertain to them.

[Adamickova] How are the negotiations about compensation for damages proceeding?

[Kocab] Around 25 May, we would like to open another round of talks with the Soviet Government and expert delegations headed by Admiral Rashin to finally prepare the signing of the agreement on financial and property-and-legal compensation.

[Adamickova] Do you now the exact figures yet?

[Kocab] The agreement is virtually ready, some controversial points are given in the two versions—the Czech

and the Soviet one—and the issue will be to make our standpoints closer. The entire scale of damage is not clear yet, and another six months or a year will be needed to examine this. Then specific figures will be inserted into the agreement.

[Adamickova] How much Soviet technology and how many Soviet troops still remain on our territory?

[Kocab] As of 13 May, the situation is as follows: All the tanks, artillery, antiaircraft installations, combat helicopters, aircraft, and ammunition have finally been withdrawn. Some 1,000 automobiles remain here—they will leave in the final stage—and four combat vehicles. There are 4,500 Soviet troops on our territory, which is approximately six percent of the original figure, and 2,200 civilians in addition to that. I would like to calm the fears of some people who say that we were deceived during the withdrawal of the last tank and that more tanks still remain here. This is not true; several armored vehicles remain here and people have erroneously confused them with tanks.

Soviet Troop Withdrawal 'In Its Last Stage'

*LD1605092991 Prague Federal 1 Television Network
in Czech 1730 GMT 15 May 91*

[Text] The withdrawal of Soviet troops is in its last stage; it will be completed as planned by 30 June. This was announced at a meeting with journalists by Major General Karel Pezl, new commander of the General Staff of the Czechoslovak Army. By now all tanks, artillery and launching equipment, combat aircraft and helicopters have left our territory. What remains are 1,206 trucks, four infantry combat vehicles, and 4,332 personnel—the last 6 percent of their original number. The weapons should be transported at the end of May; in June legal and commercial issues will be settled.

Years Needed to Assess Soviet Army's Impact

*LD1605093291 Prague CTK in English 2129 GMT
15 May 91*

[Text] Prague, May 15 (CTK)—Environmental and economic damage caused by the Soviet Army on Czechoslovak territory since the 1968 invasion is put at 2,000 million crowns [korunas] but the real figure is almost five times higher, Federal Minister of Control Kvetoslava Korinkova told journalists here today.

She said it will take several years to make a precise assessment because the necessary data are not yet available.

Soviet troops are to be withdrawn from Czechoslovakia by the end of June. 4,500 soldiers and 2,200 civilians of the original 73,500 troops are currently in the country.

3d Round of Soviet Troop Withdrawal Talks Opens

LD2005215791 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Czech 1800 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The third round of talks of Czechoslovakia's and the Soviet Union's delegations of experts on the settlement of property and financial issues linked with the entry, stay, and departure of Soviet troops from our territory opened in Cernin Palace in Prague today. The leaders of the two delegations, Vojtech Wagner, deputy Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs, and Yuriy Grishin, deputy USSR minister of foreign economic relations, jointly stressed that the departure schedule of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia is being observed. They also expressed interest in concluding an agreement rapidly on property and financial issues.

Foreign Minister Seeks Early End to Withdrawal Talks

LD2405010191 Prague CTK in English 1621 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Prague, May 23 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier told journalists here today that Czechoslovak-Soviet talks on settling financial and property issues linked with the 22-year stay of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia should end soon in view of the eventual troops' withdrawal from the country within a month.

In connection with the end of this stay, the Czechoslovak side has incited the talks on solving property and financial issues between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, which started in Prague on May 20 and are going on with difficulties.

The problem is, Dienstbier said, whether the Soviet side would accept Czechoslovakia's demand to use money from the sale of some Soviet property on Czechoslovak territory for covering Czechoslovak claims first. Dienstbier added the Soviet side would prefer to use the money for the purchase of houses. This question is important for the Soviet Union as flats for hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers, who return home, are lacking there, Dienstbier said. The opportunity of building houses in the Soviet Union is interesting also for Czechoslovakia from the viewpoint of job opportunities for its citizens, Dienstbier said.

If Czechoslovakia "succeeds in convincing the Soviets that the signing of a framework agreement on settling financial and property issues between these two countries is a political affair, then a progress could be achieved at the current talks," Michael Kocab, chairman of the parliamentary commission in charge of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia, told journalists today.

"If, however, this problem is considered only from economic viewpoints, then we can argue about the sums may be for another year," Kocab said.

He said the Czechoslovak side aims to sign the framework agreement yet this week. Its demands comprise everything, including compensation for the damage on its environment. Kocab refused to specify the sum. He just said it exceeded the expected 5,000 million crowns [korunas]. The Soviet side estimated the sum to be got from the purchase of the Soviet property on Czechoslovak territory worth 1,900 million crowns.

The Soviet delegation to the current Czechoslovak-Soviet talks on settling financial and property issues, connected with the Soviet troop withdrawal from Czechoslovakia, met today with Czechoslovak Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy.

Afterwards Soviet External Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev said both sides seek solutions to all the issues involved, and the Soviet Union is strongly interested in reaching an agreement.

"We hold some divergent views," said Minister Dlouhy, "but we agreed that it is necessary to conclude an agreement as soon as possible, before the last Soviet soldier leaves Czechoslovak territory. We agreed that the experts will go through all the controversial issues during this coming night and we will meet with Minister Katushev once more."

Economics Minister: No Agreement in USSR Troop Talks

LD2405231691 Prague CTK in English 1933 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Prague, May 24 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy told journalists here today that Czechoslovak-Soviet talks on settling financial and property issues of the 22-year presence of Soviet troops on Czechoslovak territory did not end with any agreement. Although a draft agreement, submitted by Soviet External Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev, is a certain step forward, it is not acceptable. There are differences in estimates of individual damage and claims. "There will be another round of talks", Dlouhy said. In his opinion, Czechoslovakia cannot give up its basic demand, i.e. compensation for all the damage caused by Soviet troops during their stay in Czechoslovakia. Originally, the Soviets wanted to use the money, which Soviet property in Czechoslovakia is worth, to cover the purchase of prefabricated houses. Now, the Soviet side proposes to use one third on the compensation for damage, one third on the purchase of houses and goods for soldiers and their families leaving Czechoslovakia, and the last third on investing in joint ventures, Dlouhy said. Referring to his talks with the Soviet delegation, Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Vojtech Wagner told journalists today disputes persist between these two countries over Czechoslovakia's financial claims. A final sum that can be obtained by the sale of Soviet property in Czechoslovakia cannot be determined as the sale will be regulated by market mechanisms, Wagner said. Besides, buildings which the Soviets constructed themselves do not correspond with

Czechoslovak norms, he added. The Czechoslovak-Soviet talks on settling financial and property issues started in Prague on May 20.

POLAND

Soviets Said To Stall Troop Withdrawal Talks

*AU2705211891 Paris AFP in English 1748 GMT
27 May 91*

[Text] Warsaw, May 27 (AFP) — The Soviet Union has refused to withdraw its troops from Poland before the end of 1993, causing a deadlock in talks with the Polish Government which wants them to leave this year, according to a newspaper report Monday [27 May].

Talks in Moscow two weeks ago ended in an impasse after the Soviet Union declined to discuss either the withdrawal timetable for its 50,000 troops or its debt to Warsaw, estimated at three billion rubles (five billion dollars) by the Polish Government, the daily EXPRESS WIECZORNY said, quoting well-informed sources.

Soviet negotiators also would not discuss Polish requests for spare parts for their Soviet-equipped military.

A fresh round of talks—the eighth to date—are to be held in Warsaw in mid-June.

Following Moscow's refusal to agree to the Polish deadline for withdrawal, Warsaw has refused to authorize Red Army forces withdrawing from Germany to cross its territory on their way to the Soviet Union.

CUBA

Commentary Outlines Policy on Nuclear Weapons

PA1805184791 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish
0000 GMT 16 May 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] In today's world, where world powers continue to manufacture missiles with nuclear warheads, Third World countries find it difficult to join the list of nations that have unilaterally disarmed themselves. While peace and cooperation are achieved among the world powers, Third World countries are subject to threats and aggression if they refuse to accept the latest political and economic options.

The experience gained from the latest U.S. military interventions in Panama and Iraq justify the steps taken by small nations which, despite their limited resources, are compelled to set aside budgets for defensive purposes. Cuba is among those states because U.S. aggressiveness over the last 32 years has forced Cuban authorities to divert essential economic resources to guarantee their ability to retaliate in the event of an attack.

Cuban leaders think that as long as no effective steps are taken toward a general and complete disarmament, the security of small nations will only be ascribed to those that are capable of preparing themselves for their own defense. These principles apply to Cuba's position concerning conventional weapons disarmament and the abolishment of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cuba endorses the various initiatives presented at international forums for the eradication of nuclear weapons and the peaceful use of atomic energy. However, the

obstacles which preclude its full admission to the Tlatelolco Treaty still prevail. In 1967, that document established the world's first nuclear-weapon-free region in Latin America and the Caribbean. Many states joined the treaty later on, and they have invited Cuba to become a signatory nation.

However, the persistent U.S. hostility; its refusal to give up the use of military weapons against Cuba; and the periodic arrival of boats equipped with nuclear weapons at Guantanamo Naval Base, represent obstacles that preclude Cuba's inclusion in the treaty.

Cuba recently became involved with, as a permanent observer, the work carried out by the Organization for the Abolishment of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, (OPPANALC). This was interpreted as an eloquent sign of the island's intentions to eliminate that type of weapon throughout the world.

Soviet Defense Department Denies SS-20 Presence

FL2105123591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The Ministry of Defense of the USSR has rejected THE WASHINGTON POST article that alleges the presence of intermediate-range SS-20 nuclear missiles in Cuba. An official communique published in Moscow characterized as false the report that U.S. intelligence services had detected missiles in Cuban territory on 25 April.

THE WASHINGTON POST affirmed that it obtained this information from anonymous sources. The last SS-20 was destroyed according to the Soviet-American treaty for the elimination of intermediate and short-range missiles and none were ever deployed outside USSR territory. The USSR Ministry of Defense considered THE WASHINGTON POST report a crude falsehood directed at undermining confidence in Soviet commitment to disarmament, peace, and security.

INDIA**Bush Statement on Chemical Weapons Welcomed**

*BK1505155991 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 15 May 91*

[Text] India has welcomed the statement by the U.S. President, Mr. Bush, denouncing the use of chemical weapons for any reason or against any state. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that Mr. Bush's unconditional commitment to destroy all stocks of chemical weapons held by the United States within 10 years of the coming into force of convention on chemical weapons will make a crucial contribution to the convention currently being held in Geneva.

Chinese Missile Sale to Pakistan 'Confirmed'

*BK1705045491 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0240 GMT 17 May 91*

[Text] China has confirmed that it has sold ballistic missiles to Pakistan. U.S. officials told newsmen in Washington yesterday that the confirmation of the sale was conveyed to the U.S. undersecretary of state, Mr. Robert Kimmit, during his visit to China last week. Beijing, however, said the delivery has not yet started. China has argued that the range of the missile is less than 200 km and is below the specified limit of missiles banned for sale under an international accord. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, U.S. intelligence officials believe the payload is larger than the specified limit. The paper says the range of the missile is enough to hit key positions in northern India.

GENERAL

Foreign Ministry Official on CFE, START, Summit

OW2205042991 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1500 GMT 21 May 91

["Interview in Soviet Foreign Ministry: Across-the-Board Progress on Disarmament Is Desirable" by M. Mayorov, diplomatic correspondent from "Diplomatic Panorama"]

[Text] The Soviet chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, General of the Army Mikhail Moiseyev is currently in the USA. Senior Soviet Foreign Ministry staffer Mikhail Lysenko told DP [Diplomatic Panorama] that his visit to the USA was agreed on in a telephone conversation between the Soviet President Gorbachev and the U.S. President Bush. The main objective of the visit is to discuss two sets of issues, primarily in relation to the implementation of the CFE [Conventional Forces in Europe] Treaty signed in Paris last year.

Another subject was the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. summit at which the parties should have their say on the final stage of talks to prepare a strategic offensive arms reduction [START] agreement.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry staffer was asked about why the agenda of General Moiseyev's talks in Washington included subjects connected with the CFE Treaty if, in accordance with some reports, all the differences in the field were removed during a recent meeting between Bessmertnykh and Baker in Kislovodsk, North Caucasus, the USSR. Lysenko answered that the dialogue between the two foreign secretaries on this issue "had been constructive" but there still remain "certain technicalities and hard-to-solve details requiring agreed efforts." Their range is quite broad, which requires meetings of high-level experts, including the Soviet chief of General Staff and his current U.S. negotiators.

Asked about the prospects for a strategic offensive arms treaty to be finally signed, Lysenko answered that he "would not wish to be engaged in guesswork" but specified that, as in the case of conventional weapons, the parties continue to have largely "technical, even though quite complex, issues also requiring a very serious examination." Is there any linkage being established between the elaboration of the strategic offensive arms treaty and the settlement of differences on conventional arms? According to the Soviet diplomat, the U.S. establishes linkages, the Soviet Union does not. We proceed from the desirability of an across-the-board progress on disarmament, both on strategic offensive arms and on conventional forces.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry staffer noted that the agenda of the upcoming summit will also include other questions, including those of a regional nature. The

results of Bessmertnykh's and Baker's Middle East tours are evidence that both partners have a vital stake in their discussion.

Lysenko also repeated that he would not want to make guesses when he answered the last question of the DP correspondent: Will Moscow go as far as to organize the summit if the summit holds no prospect for any agreements on arms control to be signed (a distinct possibility, judging from a White House statement)? All he answered on the matter is: The White House, as well as the Soviet President, is likely to support a large-scale summit.

Reports on UN Disarmament Conference in Kyoto

Conference Opens

91P50196A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 May 91
Second edition p 5

[Report by PRAVDA's own correspondent I. Latyshev: "A Search for New Doctrines"]

[Text] Tokyo, 27 May—The Second UN Conference on Disarmament Issues began its work today in the ancient Japanese city of Kyoto. Ninety-seven representatives of 37 countries are taking part in the work of the conference. Among them are high-ranking government officials from several countries, including the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as envoys from various antiwar and antinuclear public movements, including well-known scientists specializing in the area of disarmament problems.

Problems of disarmament in the period since the end of the Cold War and the Persian Gulf War, including problems of disarmament on the regional level, became the main themes of the conference participants' plenary sessions today.

Participants in today's plenary sessions listened with great attention to the speech by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy, who emphasized the importance of the world public's recognition of the truth that the cause of disarmament and of maintaining the global security of the world's peoples neither can nor should remain only the affair of the "superpowers," and that the entire world community can participate in this cause. The USSR Foreign Ministry representative also drew the audience's attention to the urgent necessity of transforming the national military doctrines of all states so as to give them a defensive character.

Petrovskiy Comments

91P50196B Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 May 91
Second edition p 4

[Report by PRAVDA's own correspondent I. Latyshev: "From the Place of Events: Forum in Ancient Kyoto"]

[Text] Kyoto, 30 May—For the second time in the past two years the ancient Japanese city of Kyoto has served as the location of a UN International Conference on

Disarmament Issues. However, counting last year's conference on that question, which was held in the Japanese city of Sendai, this is already the third UN forum organized on Japanese territory with the goal of considering problems of disarmament.

About 100 representatives of 37 countries, including ministers and other prominent state officials and famous political scientists, participated in the conference.

In the course of their four-day work, the conference participants considered a large number of questions which concern the world community. Most attention was devoted to problems of disarmament in the context of the international situation which developed after the end of the Cold War and the completion of military action in the Persian Gulf region. There were also wide-ranging discussions of the problems of creating structures of security on the global and regional levels in the plenary and section sessions.

What were the results of the UN's Kyoto disarmament conference? What new elements emerged in the views of the world community on the problem of disarmament? Our correspondent put these questions to USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V. F. Petrovskiy, a participant in the conference.

"In my opinion, the main result of the conference consists of the appearance of a common understanding of the fact that the world has entered a new transitional period—a period of the formation of a new world order," V. F. Petrovskiy noted. "So to speak, the concept of a new world order did not arise today—it was formulated by the United Nations at its 44th session in Resolution 44/22. This is a system of peace, security and cooperation based on the authority and capabilities of the UN."

Today the task of weapons nonproliferation in all its aspects is a top priority in the efforts of the world community—on both the UN and regional levels. This concerns not only traditional nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, but also the creation of reliable barriers to the building-up of conventional weapons. In this regard, the proposals put forward by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at the conference are very close to the idea advanced by the Soviet Union at the last UN General Assembly session, when we suggested creating an international register of conventional weapons shipments. Now, after the Persian Gulf crisis, this task is taking on even more urgency. Thus it would be possible to go even farther, namely: concluding, for example, an international convention to reduce conventional arms shipments.

START TALKS

Akhromeyev: Treaty 'Virtually Completed'

AU1505101691 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 15 May 91

["W.A." report: "Akhromeyev: The START Treaty Is Virtually Completed"]

[Excerpt] Frankfurt—According to Soviet Marshal Akhromeyev, the treaty on the limitation of long-range

offensive weapons (START), for which the two super-powers have striven for nine years, is "virtually completed." Still existing differences are of minor importance and can be solved within a short time, President Gorbachev's supreme military adviser suggested. The agreement on a date for the signing only depends on Washington's and Moscow's "political willingness," Akhromeyev said in an interview with the NOVOSTI news agency conveyed to this paper. He combined this with criticism of the Americans, whom he reproached with a wait-and-see policy. Only a few days ago, Burt, former U.S. chief mediator in the START negotiations in Geneva, had pressed his government to give more priority to the conclusion of an agreement on ceilings for long-range nuclear weapons. Akhromeyev did not deal with U.S. reproaches that the generals in Moscow complicated the negotiations by their demands for new counting criteria that would have enabled the Soviet Union to keep up to 1,900 additional nuclear warheads for their land- and sea-based long-range missiles. Instead, the Soviet marshal suggested that the final work on the treaty is "now more influenced by politics than by differences of opinion on the actual contents."

Even after the signing of the agreement, both sides will still have a "clear surplus" of nuclear potential, Akhromeyev confirmed. According to the treaty, they would each keep 1,600 strategic carriers in the form of land- and sea-based missiles and heavy bombers, as well as 6,000 nuclear warheads. Because of the planned calculation proceedings, however, the Americans will actually have about 8,400 warheads and the Soviet 7,500 warheads. It will not be possible to achieve the complete reduction of nuclear weapons, as proposed by Gorbachev five years ago, in the foreseeable future, the marshal said and substantiated this as follows: "Unfortunately, other nuclear powers, such as Great Britain, France, and the PRC, also do not accept this." [passage omitted]

SDI, DEFENSE & SPACE ARMS

Openness of Discovery's SDI Mission Viewed

91WC0102A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
1 May 91 Union Edition p 6

[Article by A. Shalnev: "Innovation in the Pentagon"]

[Text] New York—With a delay of almost two months in the schedule, the spaceship Discovery, with seven astronauts on board, was launched Sunday from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

The present mission of Discovery, which has been put into orbit for the twelfth time, is almost entirely subordinate to the Pentagon. With the help of experimental equipment at an overall cost of \$254 million, according to data of THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper, research is supposed to be conducted which will assist in

the implementation of the "Strategic Defense Initiative", that is, the "star wars" program. In particular, experiments are planned that are designed to give a clear idea of whether the American antimissile weapon will be able to penetrate the camouflage and shields of special chemical components with which the Soviet side is attempting to surround—in flight—strategic warheads to make them invulnerable.

The press is writing in considerable detail about this and other research that has been entrusted to the Discovery astronauts; moreover, citing absolutely official sources, and not information that was obtained almost illegally—as it had to be done frequently in the past. The current flight of the reusable craft is the first of those Pentagon space missions from which the top secret stamp has been virtually removed. In connection with the Discovery flight, not only were detailed press conferences arranged, where answers were given to practically all questions, but also official factually logical references consisting of several dozen pages were disseminated.

This never happened before. Previously, the secrecy was such that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), adhering to the strict rules of the Department of Defense, refused to confirm the specific time that the missile booster with the "shuttle" was launched from earth. Not a word, understandably, was said about what kind of a Pentagon payload the space ship was carrying and what the gist of the planned experiments was. Conversations with crews of military space missions were conducted exclusively over coded radio channels. What the flight time was to be was also a big secret.

Secrets are relative concepts. Careful researchers, after digging through a pile of open information, in the final analysis could find out—and often did find out—that which theoretically was considered a state secret. From the point of view of Morton Halperin, a former member of the Pentagon, who now heads the Washington office of the American Civil Liberties Union, "the openness is long overdue: In any case, the Soviet Union over the course of decades knew everything about American spy satellites and other space payloads of a military designation."

But the main reason why the Pentagon ventured into glasnost in the final analysis is financial. Guaranteeing the secrecy of Pentagon space missions entailed enormous financial costs, and, in particular, for the maintenance on the territory of the John F. Kennedy Space Research Center in Florida of a special secret complex which was protected in the event of the possible intercept of the coded system of astronaut communications which was equipped with special computers. Naturally, money for the maintenance of this complex and for service personnel was expended even when strictly civilian missions were sent into space.

According to estimates of the press, the easing of the secret stamp will make it possible in this year alone to

save no less than \$80 million—including owing to the elimination of the secret complex in the Kennedy Center.

I want to emphasize: The secrecy is easing, but it is by no means being abolished. Much about the present mission of Discovery has been publicized officially, but, judging from the statements of some Pentagon employees, who desire, by the way, that their names not be published, the spacecraft which went into space Sunday has a payload that has not been mentioned at all. They also let it be known that the results of the experiments on the "star wars" program, which the astronauts will perform, will be kept a secret. But as was emphasized by an anonymous representative of the Department of the Air Force, "We will not spare any effort to keep secret how spy satellites are working. Information on this score would help an enemy undermine space espionage."

In principle, the Pentagon innovation is welcomed both by scientists and those who think that secrecy in any form is a challenge to civic freedoms. But the voices of dissatisfaction can also be heard—from the very same scientists who are now convinced that past secrets were only an attempt to screen the Pentagon from excessive attention and from control on the part of the public. "Now we see clearly that all of these stamps are an absurdity," says John Pike, one of the leaders of the Federation of American Scientists. "What they previously used to put you in prison for is now O.K."

In conclusion, here are several figures that, in my opinion, are interesting. According to official statistical data that were disseminated the other day, in the last fiscal year, ending on September 30 of 1990, governmental departments put out 6,797,720 items of materials with various secrecy stamps—1,200 items more than a year earlier. While in 1985, under Reagan, there were about 15 million secrets.

U.S. Congressional Committee Cut in SDI Noted

*PM2105100591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 18 May 91 First Edition p 2*

["Own Information" report: "Knife in the Back for SDI?"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress is continuing to discuss the draft federal budget. The other day the House Armed Services Committee approved the allocation of \$291 billion to the Pentagon for fiscal 1992. This is \$4.2 billion less than the administration had asked for.

It is first and foremost the appropriations envisioned by the administration for the implementation of SDI that are being cut—and very substantially. The committee agreed to allocate just \$2.7 billion for this program instead of the \$4.58 billion that had been requested. The committee also decided not to release funds for the coming year for the development [sozdaniye] of the Brilliant Pebbles component of the SDI system. At the

same time, the congressmen agreed to grant the Defense Department the \$1.6 billion it had requested for the research program associated with the future construction of 75 B-2 stealth bombers. Almost all conventional arms development programs were approved too.

The committee vote caused great concern at the Pentagon, and H. Cooper, director of the SDI Organization, called it a "knife in the back for SDI."

U.S. Plans Space-Based ATBM Tracking System

PM2305150191 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 May 91 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "New ABM System"]

[Text] New York, 22 May—The U.S. Army is developing [razrabatyvat] a new tactical ABM [ATBM] system with space-based elements, which is to replace in the mid-nineties the Patriot missile complexes used by U.S. troops during the war in the Persian Gulf. U.S. journalists were told this on Tuesday by General Robert Hammond, who heads the U.S. Army's strategic defense command.

To control the new system it is planned to place sensors in space, which are to fix the launch point of any enemy missile, compute its flight trajectory, and transmit these data to ABM complexes deployed in regions of combat operations, AP reports.

The new system provides for the creation [sozdaniye] of at least two new missile complexes designed to intercept and destroy enemy rocket projectiles at various altitudes. One of the missile complexes being developed [razrabatyvat] is designed to defend a theater of military operations at a considerably greater altitude than the Patriot, which was developed [razrabatyvat] mainly for operations against low-flying aircraft. Brigadier General Morgan Gillette told journalists visiting a scientific research complex in Huntsville (Alabama) that the U.S. Army is expected to receive the first consignment of 40 such missiles by the mid-nineties.

INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES

Army Paper on Destruction of Last INF Missiles

PM1505100791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 May 91 First Edition p 2

[Report by Colonel A. Belousov and Major A. Dolinin: "No Missiles; Control Remains"]

[Excerpts] At the Kapustin Yar test range 12 May the last two RSD-10 missiles will be dismantled and the Soviet Union will complete the missile demolition envisaged by the Soviet-American INF Treaty.

Several days earlier, the United States finished destroying those of its missiles that come under the treaty's jurisdiction. Thus, the two nuclear superpowers have reduced their weapon arsenals by over 2,500 units. Although this is only 3-4 percent of the entire weapon stocks, facts speak for themselves: For the first time a positive step has been taken not to increase but to reduce nuclear potential. [passage omitted]

So we will have no more intermediate-range missile; as of 12 May they will cease to exist, unless the weather forces a change of plan. The previous day, the explosive demolition of 19 missiles is planned.

During the destruction of the first generations of missiles over 30 land plots totaling 3,000 hectares were returned to the national economy. The sale of hardware produced a sum of 17 million rubles.

So what will the Missile Demolition Control Center do now? A. Gutnikov, the center's chief, believes:

"We will not be without work. The operations schedule for the INF Treaty, as you know, runs over 13 years. In the time that remains two-way inspections are planned. The final touches to the treaty's full implementation will not be made until the next century."

Moscow Denies Report of SS-20's in Cuba

Defense Ministry Press Release

CM2105093391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 May 91 Second Edition p 5

[Defense Ministry Press Center press release: "Another Falsehood"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] Recently THE WASHINGTON POST published an article by observers R. Evans and R. Novak, citing anonymous representatives of the intelligence community, which alleges that on 25 April U.S. intelligence-gathering satellites discovered a Soviet SS-20 missile in Cuba.

It should be recalled in connection with this that the last RSD-10 (the SS-20, according to the Western classification) missile the USSR had was destroyed at the Kapustin Yar testing ground on 12 May 1991 in strict accordance with the Soviet-American treaty on liquidation of intermediate and short-range missiles and in the presence of inspectors from the United States and representatives of the Soviet and foreign media. Missiles of this type were never supplied by the USSR abroad and were not deployed outside the territory of our country.

THE WASHINGTON POST's allegation about a Soviet SS-20 being discovered in Cuba has no real grounds at all and is a concoction from beginning to end. It is perfectly obvious that the appearance in the paper of yet another crude falsehood is directed at undermining confidence in the USSR's consistent and open policy in the area of

disarmament and runs counter to the fundamental interests of the Soviet and American peoples, and the cause of strengthening security and peace throughout the world.

Fitzwater, Tutweiler Cited

*LD2105075191 Moscow TASS in English 0735 GMT
21 May 91*

[By TASS correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[Text] Washington, May 21 (TASS)—The White House and the U.S. State department on Monday refuted reports that Cuba has Soviet SS-20 missiles on its territory. The reports appeared in an article published by WASHINGTON POST. Its authors are well-known news analysts Robert Novak and Rowland Evans. Referring to intelligence sources, they alleged that SS-20s were spotted in Cuba in April by American spy satellites.

White House Press Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said at a regular news briefing that the White House had no information in corroboration of this fact.

State department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler, in turn, responding to journalists' questions, said the state department was unaware of any SS-20 missiles in Cuba. She recalled that a year ago Cubans displayed an inoperable Soviet SS-4 missile at a Havana museum. The treaty to eliminate intermediate- and short-range missiles (INF) allows the use of such missiles as static exhibits on condition of preliminary notification about this move. The Soviet Union complied with this condition and informed the United States.

Gorbachev Spokesman Denies Report

*PM2205162991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 May 91 Union Edition p 2*

[Report by A. Pokrovskiy: "What Is Happening With the 'Seven'"]

[Excerpts] At a routine briefing, Vitaliy Ignatenko, the USSR president's aide and leader of the press service, answered questions from Soviet and foreign journalists. Our report also includes answers to IZVESTIYA's questions. [passage omitted]

About the Missiles in Cuba

[Question] The U.S. press has published a report whose thrust is that Soviet SS-20 missiles have been detected in Cuba. What can you say?

[Ignatenko] That is a fabrication from beginning to end. I know that this report has already been officially denied in Washington. It is true that we have a missile in Cuba... but it is in a museum. A nonoperational SS-4 Soviet missile is kept in Havana as an exhibit. The treaty on intermediate and shorter-range missiles authorizes the use of such missiles as static exhibits provided there is prior notification. The Soviet Union has fulfilled those terms. [passage omitted]

CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE

Reports, Comments on Troop Pullout From Germany

FRG's Vogel Notes Problems

*PM0705134191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 4 May 91 Second Edition p 3*

[Telephone interview with Hans-Jochen Vogel, chairman of the FRG Social Democratic Party, by Colonel V. Markushin; place and date not given; first paragraph is introduction: "H.-J. Vogel: 'We Will Try To Speed Up the Resolution of the Problem of the Western Group of Forces'"]

[Text] A Social Democratic Party [SPD] delegation headed by party chairman H.-J. Vogel visited the Western Group of Forces 3 May. In Potsdam at an artillery division the guests were familiarized with this formation's history and traditions and spoke with Soviet servicemen and members of their families.

During the conversation with Colonel General M. Bur-lakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces, in which V. Terekhov, Soviet ambassador to the FRG, also took part, the SPD delegation was informed of the tasks facing the group in the new conditions, the progress made in implementing the schedule for the Soviet troop withdrawal from Germany, and the problems encountered here. In particular, they discussed the untimely nature of the German side's takeover of the vacated military camps, the delay in starting construction of housing for the servicemen going back to the USSR, and illegal actions regarding servicemen from the Western Group of Forces.

In his speech H.-J. Vogel shared the concern expressed by the Western Group of Forces over the difficulties and adverse phenomena that are arising. He said that the Social Democratic faction in the Bundestag would try to speed up the resolution of problems linked with the Soviet troop withdrawal. The SPD leader voiced a high opinion of the Soviet Army's role in liberating Europe from fascist diktat. He also noted that the Soviet troops' sojourn in Germany represents a magnificent opportunity to increase the number of this country's friends abroad. We must take advantage of this opportunity, he said. H.-J. Vogel described surveillance of Soviet military installations as "inadmissible." He condemned the attacks perpetrated by the national socialists, whose actions, according to him, are resolutely rebuffed by the overwhelming majority of Germans.

At KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent's request, the SPD chairman set out his stance on the prospects for Soviet-German cooperation. In particular, he said that this cooperation is of key significance for the European process as a whole. We realize, Vogel said, that M. Gorbachev's policy has ensured Europe's progress and made German unification possible. Needless to say, the internal situation in the USSR also worries us greatly,

the SPD chairman said. We realize the difficulties involved in the renewal of the Soviet economy and would like to help to successfully overcome them. Our capabilities are not unbounded, he said. But we very much want to help your country. We believe that you have forces which it will ultimately prove possible to arouse, thus ensuring your reforms' successful advance.

Supreme Soviet's Sharin Cited

LD1705103391 Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT
17 May 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Chistyakov]

[Text] Bonn, May 17 (TASS)—“Issues pertaining to Soviet troop withdrawal from Germany are of immense importance to the development of relations between the USSR and Germany as well as to the entire Europe,” Leonid Sharin, chairman of the Soviet Parliamentary Committee for Defence and State Security, told TASS. He is attending a seminar focusing on problems involved in moving Soviet troops out of Germany, which is currently held here.

“Therefore, the meeting that was organised by the German side and a frank dialogue will undoubtedly help achieve further progress in relations between our countries,” Sharin noted.

“The issue of moving out the Western Group of Troops can become a very serious obstacle to the development of bilateral relations. At present, these relations are very good but, on the other hand, are very fragile. Therefore, we should show consideration and not sharpen the existing disagreements and problems that may still emerge.

“It is necessary today that what has been created be protected by joint efforts, because it is easy to destroy the potential of trust that has been amassed.” In this regard, Sharin called for setting up a Soviet-German parliamentary commission to control the implementation of the agreements on Soviet troop withdrawal from Germany.

“There is a diversity of opinion about troop withdrawal in our country. Speakers in parliament also differed sharply when they discussed the respective treaties. Many well-grounded questions arose. This is why documents presented to deputies were not ratified at once. They were approved in parliament only when the government prepared an integral programme of measures mindful of the entire range of problems—from moral-psychological to financial.”

According to Sharin, moving officers and men of the Western Group of Troops from Germany on the whole is consistent with the new Soviet military doctrine, which is of a totally defensive nature, and the new approach to building the armed forces.

“We regard this process in the direct relationship with the current military reform in our country and troop reduction,” Sharin said. “From this point of view, the

withdrawal of troops from Germany is the all-important component of this process.”

“One should admit, at the same time, that we are not overly optimistic about the military-strategic situation, in which the Soviet Union found itself as a result of current changes in Europe,” Sharin went on.

“We came to the conclusion that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Germany will complicate to some extent the situation for the Soviet Union. Calculations on the bloc foundation underlied all treaties that were signed earlier. Today, one of the two blocs virtually ceased its existence and the balance was upset. NATO, in turn, does not take any practical retaliatory steps towards curtailing its military activity.

“Our government's stance seems correct to me: it is necessary that NATO be pressed to carry out reforms to convert the alliance from the military into a political institute,” Sharin stressed.

The current situation gives us grounds to take a new look at the military doctrine and the reform of the armed forces. This aspect can be taken into account in parliament when it discusses those treaties that have not yet been ratified, including major treaties such as the one on conventional armed forces,” Sharin said.

Withdrawal Agreement Enters Into Force

PM2005134191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 May 91 Union Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: “Entry Into Force of Soviet-German Documents”]

[Text] USSR Foreign Minister A.A. Bessmertnykh and K. Blech, FRG ambassador to the USSR, have exchanged certificates of ratification of the treaty between the USSR and the FRG on the terms for the temporary stay and planned withdrawal of Soviet troops from FRG territory signed in Bonn 12 October 1990. Thus the treaty, which until then had only temporary application, has finally entered into force.

At the same time as a result of the exchange of the relevant notes, the agreement between the USSR and FRG governments on some transitional measures signed in Bonn 9 October 1990 enters into force.

Troop Pullout Campaign ‘Launched’ by FRG Press

LD2005154891 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1210 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The problems connected with the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Germany are very important not only for developing relations between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany but also for the whole of Europe. Our correspondent in Berlin, Anatoliy (Stopkin), discusses the problems facing the Soviet Western Army Group:

The German press, especially right wing periodicals, have recently launched a campaign aimed at accelerating the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, but there are inter-government agreements envisaging their planned pullout before the end of 1994. Recently, the fourth meeting of the Soviet-German working group dealing with the problem recently ended in Wunstorf, the headquarters of the Soviet Western Army Group. The sides discussed how to plan for 1991 is being carried out. They've also coordinated exact schedules to withdraw troops before 1994. The members of the working group have stated that the withdrawal is being carried out as planned. For the moment, about 44,000 people; 10,000 units of military technology; 260,000 tonnes of material supplies, including over 140,000 tonnes of ammunition, have already been withdrawn from the territory of Germany. The figures are impressive. As many as 106 military garrisons have been left completely; of them, 76 facilities have been accepted by the German side; the rest are being prepared to be handed over. Before the end of the year, there'll be no more Soviet troops in the town of Erfurt and Magdeburg. According to the Chief Commander of the Western Army Group General Matvey Burlakov, who says that all in this year the total of 30 per cent of the personnel, machinery, armaments, and material supplies of the Western Army Group should be withdrawn, the complete pullout will be ended by the end of 1994.

Poland Soviet Troop Withdrawal Talks Continue

*LD1505082591 Warsaw PAP in English 2143 GMT
14 May 91*

[By PAP correspondent Jerzy Malczyk]

[Text] Moscow, May 14—A Polish delegation headed by Grzegorz Kostrzewa-Zorbas, deputy director of the European department at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, began a further round of discussions in Moscow today on the issue of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Poland, and on arrangements for the transit across Poland of Soviet forces stationed in eastern Germany.

The head of the Polish delegation was received in a 2-hour meeting by Yuliy Kvitsinskiy, the Soviet deputy foreign minister.

Reports, Commentaries on Moiseyev Visit to Washington

Armor Shift Beyond Urals Defended

*OW1505235991 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1816 GMT 14 May 91*

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"]

[Text] DP [Diplomatic Panorama] said in its previous issue that the Soviet Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces Mikhail Moiseyev is flying to Washington on May 20. Acting on instructions from the Soviet President, he will take part in a sitting of expert panels

for the analysis of the situation around the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty signed last November in Paris.

The USA and some other NATO countries have complaints concerning Soviet compliance with the treaty. They accuse this country of having moved a number of its tanks to Siberia and reassigned three motorized infantry divisions to naval guard, thus making them immune to the Paris treaty.

DP is under the impression after interviews with the USSR General Staff that Moiseyev himself and some of his colleagues in the military establishment are quite critical of some of the treaty provisions, and of the complaints against the USSR's compliance with the treaty.

"Any accusations levelled against the USSR are legally invalid," said Colonel-General Nikolay Chernov, deputy chief of the USSR General Staff. According to him, the movement of armour and the reassignment of the three divisions had taken place prior to the signing of the Paris treaty. The Soviet Union "was forced" to move part of its military equipment to Siberia, and not because it wanted "to cheat someone". Military production dropped 30

in the country, and the production of tanks "dropped even more, while in 1987 and 1988 the Defense Ministry commissioned 3500 tanks annually, the figure dropped to as low as 630 in 1991. At the same time, every year some 1400 tanks are struck off the inventory, primarily because of wear and tear.

To counter the trend, the Defense Ministry is laying in "a stock" of armour in Siberia. It serves to replace the obsolete vehicles, not to deploy a military grouping.

The Soviet Union has 41,000 tanks in Europe prior to the signing of the treaty and 21,000 at the moment of signing. The remaining 20,000 were moved to Siberia before the Paris summit. Of this number, 4000 old tanks were struck off the inventory, i.e., assigned for liquidation. 8000 were assigned for rearming and replenishment. 8000 tanks remain in storage, ready to replace the vehicles becoming obsolete in 1991-95. According to General Chernov, the Pentagon "would have no difficulty confirming these facts via satellite equipment".

Therefore, says the Soviet General Staff source, the movement of the tanks is in fact a no-issue. DP will take up the arguments of the Soviet military establishment in favour of having reassigned the three motorized infantry divisions to naval guards is the next issue.

Talks 'Promise Breakthroughs'

*PM1605133991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 May 91 Union Edition p 5*

[Correspondent V. Nadein report: "Good Week Expected. Concord Between M. Gorbachev and B. Yeltsin Resulting in Improved Soviet-U.S. Relations"]

[Excerpts] Washington—Commenting on the recent 45-minute telephone conversation between Soviet President M.S. Gorbachev and U.S. President G. Bush, White House Press Spokesman B. Harlow said: "Both leaders agreed that the state of U.S.-Soviet relations remains good."

This week could bring with it a number of other major achievements in this important area of the global political process.

The arrival in Washington of a Soviet military delegation headed by Chief of the General Staff M. Moiseyev and the visit to Moscow of a high-ranking economic delegation headed by R. Crowder, U.S. under secretary for agriculture, promise breakthroughs in areas that only recently seemed dead ends. [passage omitted]

U.S. mass media consider the question which our military men headed by General M. Moiseyev have to resolve to be the most difficult but key aspect of further development.

It is a question of transferring several Soviet combined units from the ground forces to the jurisdiction of the marines. The Americans maintain that such an action runs counter to the spirit of the Paris Agreement because it conceals from destruction the agreed numbers of tanks, artillery, etc. The Soviet side adheres to the letter of the treaty, which does not extend in any way to the marines. In their telephone conversation the leaders of the two states reportedly reached a conclusion on the need to seek a mutually acceptable solution to this problem.

Although the unhealthy arrogance characteristic of the mores of the Cold War period no longer dictates the sides' line of conduct, it will, nonetheless, be difficult to achieve this "mutual acceptability." To all appearances, our partners will still insist unequivocally on the adoption, essentially, of their own viewpoint.

In holding these talks, Gen. M. Moiseyev will clearly sense the extent to which important economic agreements depend on his flexibility, including the question of granting credits to the tune of \$1.5 billion to buy food in the United States. Although no direct linkage between the two problems has been officially announced, the U.S. press is increasingly frequently calling the upcoming summit meeting a "strategic treaty summit."

The President has not yet expressed a clear stand on the Moscow meeting of the two heads of state. The viewpoint that the Kremlin needs the summit far more than the White House does predominate in Washington.

This is why Defense Secretary R. Cheney and National Security Adviser B. Scowcroft are recommending that the President abstain from the meeting. The fact that the treaty on strategic offensive arms is not ready can be advanced as the reason; so—as a pretext—can the lack of reliable communications resulting from the 28 March fire in the U.S. Embassy building in Moscow.

As distinct from this, U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker considers pauses in relations potentially dangerous.

If the military men find a way next week to settle the conflict regarding the Marines, scope will at once be opened up in bilateral relations for movement in several important areas. [passage omitted]

Chervov: No Concessions on CFE

OW2005040891 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1800 GMT 17 May 91

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"]

[Text] Earlier this week, DP [Diplomatic Panorama] reported on the forthcoming U.S. visit of Soviet Commander in Chief General Mikhail Moiseyev, quoting an interview with his aide General Nikolay Chervov. General Chervov today issued the following statement in reply:

"The signing of the Paris Treaty on Conventional Weapons was an event of major importance. It was beneficial both for us and for the West alike as it makes possible sharp reduction of military tension. Unfortunately, the treaty has yet to come into effect. The West is using all means possible to accuse the Soviet Union of preventing it from being ratified, and has not stopped short of a disinformation campaign. On May 15 Agence France-Presse, requoted by INTERFAX, reported me as saying that the USSR was willing to make significant concessions to the USA. I made no such statement. I am further quoted in the interview as saying that the Soviet commander in chief was planning to offer major cuts in the number of tanks and armoured vehicles attached to Soviet naval bases. This is also untrue. Furthermore, no concrete figures were given on reduced naval strength. These figures have simply been made up either by AFP or by INTERFAX.

There is further case of mis-reporting. INTERFAX emphasises and I quote: "The USSR commander in chief and a number of his deputies are opposed to various sections of the European Conventional Arms Treaty". INTERFAX is of course entitled to emphasise what it likes. However, this statement, has clearly been quoted out of context in a deliberate attempt to portray representatives of the Armed Forces in a negative light, which is incorrect and insupportable. All the more so when the general's visit, as is well known, is aimed at paving the way for the forthcoming presidential summit and comes at a time when there is good cause for optimism.

I don't know just who was responsible for these fabrications. They are clearly a deliberate and irresponsible attempt at insinuation which will not help us solve any problems."

Talks Begin

*LD2005172991 Moscow TASS in English 1709 GMT
20 May 91*

[By TASS correspondent Stanislav Lunev]

[Text] Washington, May 20 (TASS)—Soviet-American talks on arms control began at the U.S. State Department this morning.

The Soviet delegation at the talks is led by chief of Soviet General Staff Mikhail Moiseyev. The delegation includes Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Kvitsinskiy and representatives of the Soviet Foreign and Defence Ministries.

The American side at the talks is led by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology Reginald Bartholomew.

Commentary on Moiseyev Talks

*LD2005140491 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1210 GMT 20 May 91*

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Text] A Soviet delegation headed by Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces Army General Mikhail Moiseyev has arrived in Washington to hold negotiations with high-ranking Washington officials engaged in disarmament control. Here is more from Yuriy Solton:

The Soviet delegation has been assigned a mission to find a mutually acceptable solution to disputes arising from (?various) interpretation of the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty signed last November in Paris by the leaders of 22 countries. The United States and several other participants blame the Soviet Union for not having been honest in transferring three mobile infantry divisions under Coast Guard control and thus saving a part of military hardware subject to destruction. The Soviet military officials deny that the treaty was violated. And I do not doubt this, writes Yuriy Solton.

But besides the formal side there is still another which is no less important. It is impossible to resolve complicated disarmament problems without confidence. And this is the point where mutual claims (?emerge). The situation needs to be rectified, and not only Moscow thinks so. The commander of the NATO forces in Europe, U.S. General John Galvin, believes that with a treaty coming into force a large-scale Soviet attack on Europe will no longer be possible. And to add that the ratification of the treaty will open the way to other pressing agreements on disarmament, in the first place on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons. [sentence as heard]

The American press has announced with a reference to Soviet military sources that the Soviet Union is ready to make concessions and change its position in order to find

the way out of the impasse, adding that General Moiseyev came to Washington with concrete proposals. The question is, however, a sensitive one and it is not to be speculated on. Not only security but the prestige of either side is at stake.

The only thing I can say, continues Yuriy Solton, is that Moscow is ready to seek compromise decisions which could prevent the countries, participants in the treaty, from finding any loopholes to bypass it. If the American side shows the same readiness, there won't be any special problems. And to remind that talking over the telephone recently Mikhail Gorbachev and President Bush expressed mutual desire for speedy comprehensive solution of disarmament issues. Of course, it does not fully predetermine the success of upcoming negotiations, but it is encouraging and optimistic.

Meeting With Bush

*LD2205131791 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1130 GMT 22 May 91*

[Text] U.S. President Bush has had a meeting with Moiseyev, chief of the Soviet Union's General Staff. Although TASS is reporting that the talks are continuing, news agencies are reporting that the Soviet side is not preparing to make concessions and the issue of signing the treaty in the sphere of disarmament is hanging in the air. Incidentally, this is also true of the summit meeting between Gorbachev and Bush.

Moiseyev Comments on Visit's Conclusion

*LD2205205991 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 May 91*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Army General Moiseyev, first deputy defense minister of the USSR and chief of the general staff of the Union's Armed Forces, has completed his working visit to the United States.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent B. Kalyagin] Full, intense talks took place in Washington over three days. U.S. President George Bush received General Moiseyev in the White House. The Soviet military commander also met General Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces, and Defense Secretary Cheney. There were conversations with U.S. Secretary of State Baker and with Scowcroft, the U.S. President's national security adviser. During the discussions, our side sought to remove the obstacles standing in the way of the Soviet-U.S. summit planned for the summer.

The main point at issue is connected with different interpretations of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe signed in Paris last November. The Americans insist that this agreement should be extended to four Soviet marine infantry divisions and that the tanks, armored personnel carriers, and guns, numbering over 1,100, with which these divisions are equipped,

should be subject to reduction. Our representatives, on the other hand, assume that naval units do not fall within the terms of the treaty.

The U.S. Administration declares that, until this dispute is settled, it will not send the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces to the Senate for ratification and will not agree to hold the Soviet- U.S. summit. Army General Moiseyev gave the U.S. side new compromise proposals from the Soviet Union, which are intended to help resolve the problem, but the American reply to our initiative remained unclear right up to the last moment. The final stage of talks between General Moiseyev and U.S. Under Secretary of State Bartholomew ended just two hours ago.

[Moiseyev] A certain degree of understanding was achieved. We did not manage to remove the one, sole position, regarding the naval forces, but the talks will not end there. Each side has undertaken the obligation to seek a solution. We shall continue a constructive dialogue in this spirit. [end recording]

Press Aide on Visit, Ties

OW2305033691 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1800 GMT 22 May 91

[Report by "Diplomatic Panorama" correspondent Pyotr Vasiliyev]

[Text] A White House official said the Soviet Union's position at talks in Washington in an attempt to remove differences on the conventional arms treaty in Europe did not instill optimism. The two sides are still wide apart in their assessments and approachments.

For his part, a spokesman for Mr Gorbachev's press service, Mr Vladimir Tumarkin, said the information arriving from both sides raises the hope that "positions will be clarified in the nearest future." He was hopeful that the results of General Moiseyev's trip to United States would be optimistic.

Mr Tumarkin brushed aside speculations that the general's mission to the United States was caused by discontent among the Soviet military over recent agreements reached by the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state in Kislovodsk to remove a large part of differences on the conventional arms treaty.

At the same time, he said the military "are entitled to their own judgments and to differences with the Foreign Ministry on matters of detail." Mr Tumarkin referred to the words by the Soviet defense minister, Marshal Yazov, stating commitment to the policy of sustained cooperation with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and his ministry.

"At any rate, went on Mr Tumarkin, it was President Gorbachev's own move to send a top military official to the United States for on-spot clarification of controversial issues." [quotation marks as received] In his view,

the inclusion of the deputy foreign minister, Mr Kvitsinskiy, into the delegation was designed to give the mission a politico-diplomatic thrust.

Asked what exactly was causing optimism for a success at the talks, especially after the military denied an IF [INTERFAX] report on the substance of General Moiseyev's proposals to Washington, Mr Tumarkin said: "We do not know at all what can be in his politico-diplomatic luggage."

However, he said General Moiseyev was most likely to offer concrete proposals on Mr Gorbachev's behalf for clearing the remaining obstacles to the conventional arms treaty. "This follows the content of a 45-minute telephone conversation between the two presidents and it is with these powers and guidelines that General Moiseyev is taking his trip to the United States."

Also, Mr Tumarkin did not rule out the possibility of the two presidents resorting to the hotline again to remove differences if their envoys failed to reach agreement. "All kinds of contacts are being maintained and I do not rule out that the presidents will hold back to this type of communication to resolve whatever difficulties may arise."

Mr Tumarkin also said "we are still hopeful" for a fruitful and substantive summit in Moscow this summer rather than any formal statements of support. "[no beginning quotation mark as received] He said "there are not reasons to think otherwise."

Mr Tumarkin disagreed with a judgment saying general Moiseyev's trip was "a last-minute chance to settle the differences." He said "it is a routine trip and as such is another chance. One would wish, of course, it were fruitful for both side."

Moiseyev Meets Bush, Baker, Cheney

PM2305105591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 23 May 91 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Meeting Held"]

[Text] Washington, 22 May—On Tuesday in the White House, U.S. President George Bush received Army General M.A. Moiseyev, chief of general staff of the USSR Armed Forces and USSR first deputy defense minister, who is heading a Soviet delegation at the talks taking place here with the U.S. side on questions of arms control.

During the talk, in which B. Scowcroft, the president's national security adviser, also took part, paramount attention was paid to a discussion of a wide range of arms control issues in the context of the entire agenda of Soviet-U.S. relations.

On the same day, the Soviet delegation continued talks with the U.S. side headed by Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. under secretary of state for international security

affairs. USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister Yu.A. Kvitsinskiy is taking part in the talks.

During the day, Army General M.A. Moiseyev met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other representatives of the U.S. Administration.

On Tuesday evening, a reception was held at the USSR Embassy to the United States in honor of the stay in Washington of the Soviet delegation headed by Army General M.A. Moiseyev. On the U.S. side it was attended by high-ranking representatives of the State Department and Defense Department and the U.S. public and business circles, including R. Bartholomew, General C. Powell, General M. McPeak, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, and other officials.

Talks 'Difficult But Useful'

*LD2305195191 Moscow TASS in English 1942 GMT
23 May 91*

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, May 23 (TASS)—“The talks were difficult, but useful. I believe that good prospects are opening up in many directions,” head of the Soviet Armed Forces General Staff General Mikhail Moiseyev told TASS. Moiseyev was speaking today immediately after ending his visit to the United States.

According to Moiseyev, he aimed to discuss with the U.S. side a number of arms reduction and limitation issues.

“We considered the settlement of the complex situation around the agreement on Conventional Forces in Europe, signed by the heads of 20 European states, the United States and Canada in Paris on November 19, 1990, as the main task of the visit,” Moiseyev said.

He said the sides were expected to discuss the situation at Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons and other directions of the disarmament process.

During the visit, the sides approached the final settlement of disputable problems, Moiseyev said. He believes that “all obstacles on the road towards ratifying the agreement on Conventional Forces in Europe will soon be removed”.

“But reciprocal efforts are needed,” he said. “On our part, guided by interests of further positive development of international processes corresponding to aspirations of all peoples and countries, we have done the maximum possible,” Moiseyev said.

The Soviet delegation in Washington was ready to hold full-scale discussions of all other problems of the disarmament process and had wide powers, Moiseyev said.

“Unfortunately, despite the preliminary agreement, the U.S. side was not ready for such discussions,” Moiseyev said.

CFE Negotiations, Visit Viewed

*OW2405050391 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1800 GMT 23 May 91*

[Article by “Diplomatic Panorama” correspondent Petr Vasilyev: “Conventional Arms Treaty: No More Differences Left?”—INTERFAX headline]

[Text] Talks concluded in Washington on Wednesday which President Gorbachev’s special envoy General M. Moiseyev conducted with a view to eliminating the Soviet-American differences on the treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe [CFE]. According to the Soviet general, “the Americans displayed understanding” during the talks.

Mr. Moiseyev said that although the Soviet proposals were accepted caused a most positive reaction from the U.S. side, “arms control talks are not yet over. [sentence as received] The negotiating parties pledged to look for mutually acceptable solutions and promote constructive dialogue on the entire range of issues, including strategic offensive arsenals, chemical weapons, etc.”

As DP’s [Diplomatic Panorama] reporter has learned at the USSR Foreign Ministry, practically all differences over the content of the treaty were removed.

According to DP’s own sources, of the three disputable provisions two were settled, notably the tank transfer across the Ural Mountains and the re-subordination of three motorised infantry divisions to the coastal guard command. The marines problem is still there. General Moiseyev’s suggestion was that the Soviet marines be left outside the framework of the talks, since under the cuts provided for by the treaty the marine corps would cease existing as an armed force (after all cuts were made, the Soviet marines would number 14,000 against America’s 200,000-strong marine force.)

A Soviet diplomat who asked not to be identified described the remaining differences as “purely political.” He suggested that the recent deadlock had resulted from a situation whereby each side was determined to defend its “rightness” to the end and unwilling to look for compromise solutions that would allegedly “weaken its positions.” At the same time, each expected the other side to make unilateral concessions. The diplomat said both Moscow and Washington should now do everything to find mutually acceptable options and a political formula that would make it possible to finally untangle the “Gordian Knot” of the CFE treaty.

According to the Foreign Ministry official, the Soviet-American differences on the CFE treaty could have been eliminated “in a much simpler way”, although he declined to say whether or not he is blaming the top

Soviet military for the persistent difficulties. At the same time, the diplomat clearly indicated that the "deadlock in negotiations can be blamed on both sides, although the arguments of each of the two are quite understandable too." He expressed the hope that all of the remaining differences on the conventional force treaty would be removed in the near future, which would be vitally important to both the USSR and the USA.

Army Paper on Talks

PM2405104791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 May 91 First Edition p 3

[Report by unnamed TASS correspondent: "Talks End"]

[Excerpts] Washington, 22 May—The Soviet-U.S. talks on arms control issues ended here Wednesday. [passage omitted]

As Army General M.A. Moiseyev noted in conversation with your TASS correspondent at the end of the talks, the Soviet delegation met with definite understanding from the U.S. side. The Soviet proposals in this sphere produced a most positive response; however, the talks on arms control issues do not end here. Both sides have assumed commitments to seek a solution and take reciprocal steps in keeping with the spirit and interests of cooperation between our countries and to continue constructive dialogue on the whole range of talks under way, including those on strategic, offensive, chemical, and other arms.

Moiseyev Cited on Arms Control Issues, U.S. Talks

PM2405093591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 May 91 Union Edition p 5

[A. Blinov report under "Panorama of International Life" rubric: "Commitment to Seeking Solutions"]

[Text] Washington—The visit to the United States of Army General M.A. Moiseyev, one of the top Soviet military leaders, ended with a meeting with U.S. State Department specialists involved in arms control issues.

During his visit to the United States, Army Gen. M.A. Moiseyev, first deputy defense minister and chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, was received by U.S. President G. Bush in the White House and had meetings with U.S. Secretary of Defense R. Cheney and Secretary of State J. Baker. Talks were held with General C. Powell, chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff; and B. Scowcroft, the U.S. President's national security adviser.

The negotiations with the U.S. side held by Moiseyev and the delegation he was heading—which also included Yu.A. Kvitsinskiy, USSR first deputy foreign minister—concerned questions of arms control.

Discussion of the differences in both sides' approach to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

occupied an important place in the concluded discussions. As is known, the U.S. Administration has announced that it will not submit the text of the treaty for ratification by the Senate until the differences on issues relating to this treaty have been eliminated.

As Moiseyev noted, the negotiations made it possible to remove almost all the disputed issues. "Aside from one point concerning naval forces, all the observations put by President G. Bush to M.S. Gorbachev have been resolved," Moiseyev said. At the same time, according to Moiseyev, "the negotiations are not finished. Both sides have committed themselves to seeking opportunities for a solution by taking steps toward each other." Negotiations will also continue on the whole complex of arms control.

As Moiseyev went on to explain, the Soviet proposal on the controversial problem of the weapons belonging to Soviet divisions categorized as coastal defense units envisions their inclusion in the overall limit stipulated for the Soviet side by the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Some flexibility is proposed only as regards which component [chast] of these weapons will be viewed as being in service and which component will be counted among weapons authorized for storage. This, the Soviet representative stressed, does not violate the ceilings established for the USSR by the treaty and does not affect the envisioned regional division.

Journalists asked Moiseyev to comment on President Bush's comment that the problems connected with the treaty on conventional arms can be resolved this week.

This is completely possible, Moiseyev said, stressing here that a "relatively small issue," which does not require the reexamination of the package of agreements, remained unresolved.

The same day M.A. Moiseyev concluded his visit to Washington, President Bush gave his assessment of the Soviet-U.S. arms control negotiations. It has been partially cited above. Bush also stated that the negotiations between the USSR and the United States "are going very well."

Foreign Ministry Calls Trip 'Successful'

OW2705153191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 24 May 91

[By diplomatic correspondents P. Vasiliyev and M. Mayorov: "Results of General Moiseyev's Mission to the USA"; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned from sources at the USSR Foreign Ministry that nearly all the differences on the Conventional Forces Treaty in Europe (CFE) have been ironed out: hence, General of the Army Moiseyev's mission to the USA may be described as successful.

According to the Soviet Foreign Ministry, there were three stumbling blocks on the way of ratification (the

relocation of Soviet armour to Siberia, the reassignment of the motorized infantry division to naval guards and making the marines immune to any troops cuts under the treaty), but the first two disagreements have been resolved.

Military sources describe the compromise as follows: the USSR "pledged not to exceed the treaty-specified troops and arms ceilings in the European zone" but asked the USA to "overlook the violations as regards the territorial division".

The idea is that the ceilings on troops and arms the treaty allowed to be in the European part of the USSR will be met, and the reassigned divisions will remain in the border guards. It is these units deployed on the flanks, in the Baltics and on the Black Sea, that are in excess of the regional troops and arms ceilings. An equivalent quantity of forces will be scrapped in the reserve and in warehouses.

The military expert said that now in the European part of the USSR "things are going to be the way they are, and we will scrap equivalent arsenals in other areas. Then we will have a uniform strength of troops and armaments throughout the entire zone in conformity with the already signed treaty".

The treaty also sets ceilings for the flank areas, with account of the forces our ex-allies had. The expert would not answer whether there will be any reductions in the immediate flank zones after the reassignment of the three divisions to the coastal guards or whether there will be aggregate cuts within one zone.

One issue remains outstanding: whether the marines fall under the treaty-specified reductions or not. The Soviet Foreign Ministry sets the strength of the Soviet marines at 14,000 and of the American, at 200,000. The total of the equipment the Soviet marine units have can only be estimated in round figures (120 tanks, 150 armoured personnel carriers and 250 artillery pieces) while the U.S. Marines have as many as 40,000 tanks, other equipment not counted in.

According to the Soviet military expert, "this question is political rather than military". This opinion is echoed by the Soviet Foreign Ministry staffers: "... the reductions laid down in the treaty kill the Soviet marines as a branch of the armed forces".

According to the Soviet military expert, the U.S. reluctance to make this branch of the forces immune to the treaty may be explained as apprehension lest the USSR expand the branch uncontrollably in case the treaty overlooks the marines. To counter this, he says, the Soviet Union and the USA could pledge unilaterally to refrain from building up the marines beyond the format of the negotiation mandate.

The military expert claimed that the issue will definitely be tackled at the summit (to be held in Moscow this summer): "Neither party gains by leaving the issue in the

air. The parties are out to 'save face', and there are no major disagreements any more".

Another disarmament expert of the Soviet Foreign Ministry who spoke with DP but requested anonymity was terse in his comments, because, among other things, "the military are jealous of any information concerning Moiseyev's talks in Washington that does not originate in their circles".

His assessment: Answers have been found to nearly all of the questions, but there remain outstanding aspects "requiring clarification as to how they will be anchored in the corresponding documents".

He confirmed Moiseyev's interview carried in the May 24 issue of the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that the parties agreed to put the finishing touches via diplomatic channels. He did not rule out the possibility of military experts being asked not to participate in further talks, first of all on the marines.

Though the interviewee is on the whole sanguine, he is not inclined to believe that all the obstacles to a Soviet-U.S. summit in the summer have been removed. According to him, it is yet "early to claim that everything is ready for the Gorbachev-Bush summit in Moscow". He noted though that "now both sides understand what we want and what the U.S. wants out of disarmament".

The Foreign Ministry expert believes that now the U.S. does not have any arguments to establish a linkage between compliance with the CFE Treaty and the strategic offensive arms treaty. "Old arguments in favour of such a linkage no longer work," he says, referring to progress in the talks on major items of the Paris conventional arms agreement.

Mikhail Lysenko, a staffer at the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Department of the USA and Canada, was also quite optimistic about the results of Moiseyev's talks in Washington. While the marines remain an outstanding issue, a solution can be found as "the U.S. has made counter proposals".

The completion of the work on the strategic arms treaty is quite a different matter, says he. "We are concerned that the Americans did not make any new proposals on the treaty in Washington," says the Soviet diplomat, "though Moscow had previously come out with new ideas concerning possible solutions to the remaining technical details. In fact, the Americans sidestepped the issues in Washington. This is alarming," says Lysenko, but, according to him, he would not like to dramatize the situation.

Moiseyev Interviewed on Results of Talks

*PM2405195791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 25 May 91 First Edition p 2*

[Interview with Army General M.A. Moiseyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, by Ye. Agapova; date and place not given]

[Text] During Army General M.A. Moiseyev's visit to the United States KRASNAYA ZVEZDA special correspondent Ye. Agapova was in Washington. She put a number of questions to him. We publish the interview, which took place aboard an aircraft.

[Agapova] Mikhail Alekseyevich, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers know the broad outline of your visit to Washington. But we would like to have first-hand information about the objective of this visit and who took part in the talks.

[Moiseyev] Our delegation was in Washington in line with an accord achieved during a recent telephone conversation between USSR President M. Gorbachev and U.S. President G. Bush. We were to discuss with the U.S. side a number of questions which have accumulated of late in connection with arms reduction and limitation problems. There are quite a few of them. The main one, however, pertains to resolving the complex situation which has taken shape around the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (the CFE Treaty) which was signed in Paris 19 November 1990 by the leaders of 20 European states, the United States, and Canada. However, we did not want to confine ourselves to the problems of the CFE Treaty alone. It was also planned to examine the situation at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms and in other areas of the disarmament process.

I will tell you frankly, we worked very hard. U.S. President G. Bush had discussions with us. During the two-and-a-half day visit to Washington meetings and talks were held with B. Scowcroft, his national security adviser; Secretary of State J. Baker; Secretary of Defense R. Cheney; General C. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and a group of senators in the U.S. Congress. Four working meetings lasting several hours were held with a U.S. delegation headed by R. Bartholomew, U.S. under secretary of state. There were also meetings between experts from the two countries.

[Agapova] But after all, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe was signed six months ago. What kind of problems have arisen now?

[Moiseyev] The question now is this: Do the provisions of the CFE Treaty apply to the arms of military formations which are integral components of the Navy, or do they not? It is a question of tanks, armored vehicles, and artillery belonging to shore and naval infantry forces. The United States now proceeds from the premise that the provisions of the treaty apply to all arms and military hardware limited under the treaty deployed on land, irrespective to what service of the armed forces they belong.

We believed, and continue to believe, that the treaty does not cover the arms of naval infantry and shore defense forces. This is legally enshrined in the mandate of the Vienna talks signed 10 January 1989. After all, back during its elaboration, naval forces, and consequently also the naval infantry and shore defense forces,

were excluded, at U.S. insistence, from the subject of the talks. Thus the arms of the naval infantry and shore defense forces were excluded against our wishes from discussion even before the talks began. This provision is enshrined in the Paris treaty. It was confirmed during the Vienna talks by six states, including the United States, in the Treaty on a Final Settlement in Respect of Germany, which states that "...in line with the mandate, ground and air forces alone... are the subject of the talks on conventional armed forces." For precisely the reason that the treaty does not apply to the Navy, the question of permanently land-based naval aviation was resolved outside the framework of the treaty during the talks, at U.S. insistence. Now in retrospect they are trying to make the accusation that the Soviet Union allegedly excluded the arms of naval infantry and shore defenses from the count after the CFE Treaty was signed. But this is not at all the case. So this is why the impasse has come about, and it is by no means our fault that obstacles have arisen in the path of the ratification of the CFE Treaty—this truly historic document which envisions substantial cuts in the European continent's arms arsenal.

[Agapova] But the impasse has not arisen right now. Can you tell us, Mikhail Alekseyevich, whether any steps to resolve it were taken earlier?

[Moiseyev] But of course. With a view to resolving the situation and ensuring the implementation of the Paris treaty, the Soviet Union took a number of steps aimed at settling the controversial issues. Letters were exchanged between the U.S. and USSR presidents and there were consultations at various levels. A possible accord was outlined, which, in our opinion, could eliminate the concern of all the states party to the treaty. Coordination of the specific details of a comprehensive settlement of outstanding questions was precisely one of the objectives of our visit to Washington.

[Agapova] What specific results did the talks in Washington produce?

[Moiseyev] I can firmly say that we have come very near to a final settlement of the outstanding questions. Practically only one issue, on which there are two proposals, has not yet been agreed. One of these was put forward by the Soviet side, and the other by the U.S. side. We have agreed to complete the remaining work via diplomatic channels.

Speaking in general, both sides have agreed that the talks were fruitful. On the admission of the U.S. side, the Soviet delegation displayed a constructive approach and flexibility, which make it possible to remove the obstacles which have arisen in the disarmament process as a whole. I am convinced that all the barriers will be removed. But for this efforts on both sides are necessary. For our part we will do the utmost possible.

[Agapova] So it remains to be hoped that the Americans will do everything possible and that all the obstacles that have arisen on the path ratifying the CFE Treaty will be

removed. Could you tell us what the situation is like in other areas of the disarmament process?

[Moiseyev] Allow me to emphasize once again that our delegation traveled to Washington prepared to discuss fully all problems pertaining to the disarmament process. We had extensive powers to this effect. But I must say quite frankly that despite preliminary agreement, the U.S. side was not ready for this. Take, for instance, the finalization of the draft of the bilateral treaty on radical cuts in strategic offensive arms within the framework of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms in Geneva. After a technical recess for the purpose of preparing solutions to the remaining outstanding issues, the talks resumed 19 April. The Soviet delegation arrived in Geneva with instructions to proceed in such a way as to ensure the completion of the drafting of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms within a short time. We put forward a number of compromise proposals aimed at the achievement of mutually acceptable solutions. But the U.S. side took the course of dragging out the talks. A number of decisions reached as long ago as last year in Houston have still not been endorsed. And what is more, a departure by the U.S. side from formerly reached accords is noticeable. Answers to many questions raised by the Soviet side in Geneva are a long time coming from Washington.

This, naturally, is hampering progress at the Geneva talks. Nor was the U.S. side ready to find mutually acceptable solutions on strategic offensive arms during our talks in Washington.

To sum up the results of our visit, the talks were difficult, but useful. This is an opinion shared also by the U.S. side. I believe that hopeful prospects in many areas lie ahead of us.

Reports, Comments on Vienna CSBM Talks Third Session

Mixed Reactions Seen

*LD1505161491 Moscow TASS in English 1222 GMT
15 May 91*

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna, May 15 (TASS)—It may seem, at first glance, that there is every reason to speak highly about the results of the third session in the new round of talks on confidence-building measures and security [CSBM] in Europe, which ended here today. Positive results were achieved in several areas of the negotiations process, particularly in the implementation of the 1990 Vienna document on confidence-building measures, approved by the Paris CSCE summit meeting. But what has actually been done in Vienna during the past month?

For the first time in the history of the CSCE process 34 countries have exchanged information on their military forces and plans for the deployment of their armaments and other military hardware. Such exchanges are the key

link in the system of European security, a substantial achievement in further promoting openness in the military domain.

One more task is all but completed—the creation of a CSCE communication system through which the capitals of 34 states will be able to exchange various military information. Certain progress has been made in preparing the second seminar on military doctrines.

The new centre for preventing conflicts in Europe is gaining strength rapidly. It is already exerting efforts to implement the already agreed confidence-building and security measures. But the main and most important task of the centre, linked with the prevention of conflicts, has still not been tackled.

These are, perhaps, the only positive aspects of the past session. If we regard the talks as a whole, we must say that they are still marking time. No answer has still been received to the Soviet delegation's proposal to fix concrete parameters for restricting military activities. Disturbing also is the fact that there are still no deep and far-reaching proposals, compatible with the climate that is appearing in Europe.

Grinevskiy: Talks 'Marking Time'

*PM2105105391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
21 May 91 Second Edition p 5*

[Report by correspondent I. Melnikov: "No Change in Vienna. Delegations From 34 Countries Take a Time-Out"]

[Text] Vienna saw off the talks participants with continuous cold rain as they dispersed for the brief May break. One of my journalist colleagues could not resist a black joke: "The sky is lamenting the failures in the Hofburg." Although this judgment is somewhat extreme, the fact remains that the round of talks the 22 states are conducting on conventional armaments in Europe, which has gone on for a month, has not resolved the controversial questions on the agenda.

So how are things going at the confidence- and security-building measures [CSBM] talks being held among all 34 states that participated in the all-European conference? Not so badly, at first glance. There has been progress there in four areas.

Above all there was the first exchange of information on military forces and plans for the deployment of armaments and hardware. The experts described it as a key element, a significant advance toward a totally new level of openness. The second task—creation of a CSCE communications network—is nearing fulfillment. Its technical readiness could be established this very year—although it will be necessary, before all the capitals of the states participating in the all-European process are firmly linked up, to agree on the question of payment for the transmission of information.

Another question studied at the spring session was preparation for a second seminar on military doctrines. Finally, another gain for the current session was the formation of a new all-European institution—the Conflict Prevention Center—which is taking place before our eyes. As expected, there was interesting, substantive discussion at its consultative committee.

In view of all this, one might expect a sense of satisfaction. But no: USSR delegation head Oleg Grinevskiy is critical.

"I am far, very far, from euphoric," he said in conversation with me. "The talks as a whole are marking time. Let us look at the fundamental tasks. You find measures of a limited nature. The Soviet delegation has submitted specific parameters on the limitation of military activity, but the partners remain silent. They appear to have forgotten that previously they proposed transferring to the talks among the 34 a number of stabilization measures which were under examination at the talks among the 22. But can confidence-building measures on naval and air forces really remain outside the sphere of openness?"

But perhaps the main reason for concern, O. Grinevskiy said in conclusion, is the fact that there have been no new, far-reaching proposals—to fit the conclusion [as published] that is taking shape in Europe at the moment. It may sound harsh, but what we are seeing in the resplendent Hofburg today are scraps from the tables of the Stockholm and previous Vienna talks. There are practically no new ideas. Moreover, when the conversation gets around to the elaboration of a mandate for future talks, which are to start after "Helsinki-2," some of our colleagues are racked by doubts. It appears that they are still unable to choose whether to continue to rely on force in politics or to opt for cooperative security.

European Conflict Center Called 'Indispensable'

*LD1505170691 Moscow TASS in English 1519 GMT
15 May 91*

[By TASS military analyst Vladimir Chernyshev]

[Text] Moscow, May 15 (TASS)—A regular meeting of the Consultative Committee of the European Centre for Preventing Conflicts has been held in the Austrian capital. It discussed problems related to the exchange of information on armed forces and the deployment of principal weapons systems by CSCE states. This exchange has become, without doubt, a key link in the development of the entire confidence-building and security system in Europe. Even more can apparently be said about it: this exchange is quite extraordinary because it involves, for the first time in the history of the CSCE process, such a large number of participants and such a huge volume of information.

The Centre's participation in the collection and dissemination of information on the structure of armed forces, weapon systems and means of warfare enhances the

"transparency" of defensive structures. Any CSCE state will now be able to receive trustworthy information on military matters from all over the continent—from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The European public pins great hopes on the Centre, whose establishment has definitely helped institutionalise the CSCE process. In light of the rapidly changing military and political situation in Europe, this body is apparently indispensable as a prototype of future suprabloc structures on our continent.

The Soviet Union has long ago determined its attitude to the Centre's tasks and functions. In addition to the exchange of information on the structure of armed forces and armaments, it is apparently advisable that the prompt establishment of contacts between CSCE nations, particularly in case of tension, and their provision with a clearer idea of the military situation and its possible development be included as its main tasks. It is necessary that major importance be attached to the mechanism of consultations and cooperation in the sphere of extraordinary and unplanned military activities. A system of special meetings, to be held in the Centre, as well as urgent contacts to clarify such activities would contribute to the further strengthening of confidence and would reduce the risk of an accidental conflict due to some miscalculation.

From the very outset of the Vienna forum Moscow wanted the Centre to be charged with the broadest functions and to be turned into a kind of multilateral "red telephone", helping to promptly settle disputes. The Centre could dispatch "good offices" missions to hot spots and assume mediation functions. The vesting of the Centre with political functions would help reduce frictions and tension, would ensure direct mediation between conflicting sides.

Unfortunately, the Soviet approach was not backed by all the parties to the negotiations. As a result, the Centre's functions were narrowed down as compared to what was proposed by the Soviet Union. However, the West has already begun to realise the expediency of expanding the Centre's functions. For instance, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher have expressed the wish in their joint statement of May 10 that the CSCE foreign ministers conference in Berlin, scheduled for June 19-20, should discuss concrete additional functions that could be given to the Centre in order to enhance its role in preventing and settling conflicts. Such an approach on the part of Western representatives could apparently be welcomed and their proposals should be thoroughly considered.

Western Plans 'Cast Doubt' on CSCE Pledges

*PM2205152791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 22 May 91 First Edition p 5*

[Colonel A. Vasilyev article: "Old Approaches to a New Europe"]

[Text] The last five years have been "productive" for Europe in terms of events of exceptional political importance: the signing of the Treaties on the Elimination of

Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles and Reductions in Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, German unification, and, lastly, the disbanding of the Warsaw Pact military structures. This means that there is just one military-political grouping left in Europe—the NATO bloc—instead of the two on whose existence the postwar system of regional security was based.

NATO experts evaluate the military disintegration within the Warsaw Pact as just a “domestic” problem for the Eastern bloc that will have no effect on the future of the North Atlantic alliance. That is, a trend has clearly emerged not only for the need to retain and further strengthen NATO to be justified in all manner of ways, but also for a new system of European security to be focused on it.

At present two areas—the Atlantic and the European—predominate in regard to setting up such a system. The first is geared to NATO as the fundamental element in the future system, the second to the Western European Union [WEU]. At the same time specialists are now arguing with increasing frequency that these two areas can be combined.

The idea of creating a NATO-WEU axis is seen as the best option and is viewed positively by both “Europeanists” and “Atlanticists.” It is thought that this would, first, help resolve the question of the North Atlantic alliance’s forces operating outside Europe since the WEU could, to use NATO Secretary General M. Woerner’s expression, “perform a separate role outside the alliance’s zone of operations.” Second, it is thought that NATO’s “European pillar” could be reinforced via ties of association with the WEU for East European countries.

You get the impression that people in NATO are deliberately disregarding the CSCE or simply refuse to see it as the main element in a new nonbloc system of security comprising all countries in the region, including the Soviet Union. And if the conversation turns to the CSCE, it is largely to note the difficulties, for instance, involved in the institutionalization process, along with its amorphous structures and vague concepts.

Regrettably, East European countries also hew to the same position. On leaving the Warsaw Pact military organization they began actively to seek guarantees of their security outside the CSCE framework. One of the directions this quest has taken is bilateral and multilateral integration in Central Europe. This process began with Czechoslovakia’s signing an agreement with Hungary and Poland on military cooperation. Alongside this we can trace those countries’ effort to create a “tripartite” alliance, one of the elements of which could be military cooperation.

The question of creating a regional “Centagonal” (pentagon) grouping—the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Italy, and Austria have already expressed a desire to take part—is also still being studied. Poland has also displayed an interest in joining.

Some specialists reckon that it could in that case act as a link between the “pentagon” and the Baltic region countries.

Another area is rapprochement with NATO. At present the alliance is taking a very cautious approach to this question. It is thought to be a bad time and a hasty move to admit new members—and one that is even provocative toward the Soviet Union. Nevertheless there are people in NATO who admit the possibility of the USSR’s former allies joining the alliance. Not right away, but via a system of consultations, the gradual broadening of military and diplomatic contacts, and associative forms of cooperation. Joining the WEU is regarded as a possible interim option for them.

These actions by NATO countries pursuing a policy of preserving bloc ties and the political maneuverings by East European states cast doubt on how seriously they take their pledges to create new structures of collective security in Europe, strengthen trust, and ensure equal security for everyone. The fact that such steps might undermine confidence in the disarmament movement also arouses misgivings.

Last Soviet Military Unit Leaves CSFR

*LD2805101891 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0940 GMT 28 May 91*

[By TASS correspondent Igor Shamshin]

[Text] Prague, 28 May (TASS)—The last Soviet military unit, a defense battalion of the Central Group of Forces, left for home on Monday from the town of Milovice, where it was stationed.

Only a Soviet “liquidation group” of 800 officers and men remains in Czechoslovakia. Before 20 June it is to hand over to the Czechoslovakian side all facilities used by the Soviet army units. It is expected that the final protocol on the withdrawal of Soviet troops will be signed on 26 June, CTK reports.

SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES

Prospects for Limiting Tactical Arms Viewed

*PM1705085091 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 15 May 91 First Edition p 5*

[“Problems and Opinions” article by Candidate of Military Sciences Lieutenant General A. Politsyn: “Can Europe Be Rid of Nuclear Weapons?”]

[Text] The transition in international politics from confrontation between East and West to mutual understanding and cooperation is a fact. The process of eliminating the remnants of the “cold war” is under way. Trust and partnership are becoming the increasingly

strong foundation of relations between states. Still, the weight of the past is manifestly putting the brakes on movement ahead. The military-political leadership of the United States and its allies upholds the need for NATO to keep its military organization. The desire to achieve military superiority over the USSR by developing new types of high-accuracy arms, whose combat capabilities are close to those of weapons of mass destruction, is causing concern.

The question of tactical nuclear weapons on the European continent stands out in particularly sharp relief. These weapons not only possess considerable destructive power, they are also less easily verifiable because they can be used in "dual purpose" systems and can be employed in a surprise first strike, which makes it difficult for the opposite side to take appropriate countermeasures. The Soviet side has, on more than one occasion, proposed the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons, stressing that the preservation, modernization, and buildup of tactical nuclear systems will have an increasingly destabilizing effect on the military-political situation in Europe and could cause an unsanctioned nuclear conflict with all the ensuing dire consequences.

On the basis of its position of principle, the Soviet Union favors an immediate start to talks on this problem. The subject of the talks should be ground-based tactical missile systems and their nuclear charges, nuclear artillery shells, nuclear landmines, nuclear-capable aircraft, and airborne nuclear munitions. In our opinion, those attending the talks might include the USSR, the United States, Great Britain, France, and also those European states on whose territory these weapons are sited and where the means for delivering them exist. At all stages of the talks, the maintenance of stability in the European zone could be guaranteed by commitments taken by the sides not to increase the number of ground-based and airborne tactical nuclear weapons above agreed levels within the confines of the continent. At the first stage of cuts (two to three years) the region affected could be Central Europe; at the second stage (three years) it could be an extended Central European zone; at the third stage (three to five years) it could be a European zone from the Atlantic to the Urals.

For a long time the NATO countries did not want to raise the tactical nuclear weapons problem and delayed the start of talks using all manner of pretexts. Today even in NATO they are starting to look at the possibility of sitting down for talks on this problem.

Washington and London believe that the talks should not lead to the total elimination of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, that a certain minimum level of weapons should be preserved. The United States and the USSR should be the principal partners at the talks. The subject of the talks could include nuclear weapons alone (shells, airborne bombs, and missile warheads) and should not extend to "dual purpose" delivery systems. It is proposed that the tactical nuclear weapons subject to cuts could be withdrawn for storage on U.S. territory or

dismantled to extract the nuclear components. The talks should exclude the "zero option" in respect of any tactical nuclear weapon component so as not to establish conditions for British and French linkage to the talks and the limitation of their nuclear arsenals.

At the present time, Washington's military experts have not formulated a united opinion regarding the zone specified in the talks. The majority of them are proposing to limit the area of application of the future agreement to an "extended Central European" zone, as it is defined in the CFE Treaty. American experts are proposing that the military subunits responsible for storing and protecting tactical nuclear munitions on European territory should be the subject of control [obyekt kontrolya].

Great Britain's attitude to the tactical nuclear weapons talks is based on its own understanding of the "nuclear deterrence" idea. In London's opinion, strategic nuclear forces should not remain the only system fulfilling the deterrent function on the "macrolevel"—between the USSR, the United States, Great Britain, France, and China. Deterrence is needed on the "microlevel," bearing in mind the possibility of nuclear weapons appearing in "Third World" countries. Efforts at the talks should be concentrated on systems that have declining military significance (nuclear artillery and ground-based tactical missiles).

France, while favoring talks between the USSR and the United States, would not, however, be in favor of talks which in any way affected its own nuclear arsenal. At the same time, the French would not refuse to participate in discussing problems linked to the nuclear presence of the two superpowers in Europe.

On the whole, this group of countries (the United States, Great Britain, and France) occupies a common position: They do not want deep cuts in tactical nuclear weapons and are striving for systematic modernization of these weapons. In their opinion, the total destruction of tactical nuclear systems is inadmissible, since this could provoke a number of undesirable results:

- the disruption of NATO unity, which could lead to the decreased possibility of exerting political pressure on the USSR;
- the curtailment of the U.S. military presence in Europe, a lesser role for the military factor in politics, and the appearance of friction in relations between allies in the bloc;
- the gradual "slipping away" of a number of Western European states (in particular the FRG) toward a "neutral" policy;
- the revision of the "flexible response" idea and the appearance of additional difficulties for NATO.

The leading circles of another group of NATO countries—the FRG, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, and Greece—have positively welcomed the USSR's proposal

and have taken up a more radical position. They favor the elimination of nuclear weapons and an extension of the circle of participants at the talks, which would include not just the nuclear powers but also countries where nuclear weapons are sited. In their opinion, at the first stage, tactical nuclear systems, including "dual purpose" systems, need to be cut to a level which makes the task of averting war possible, and at the second stage they can proceed to total elimination. Modernizing tactical nuclear weapons is inadvisable—this can only prolong the talks.

Generally speaking, the NATO countries' tactical nuclear weapons modernization program in Europe, which was worked out as early as 1977-1978, is a topic of constant debate. It now includes two elements: equipping tactical aircraft with a new missile with a range of about 500 km, designed as a replacement for airborne nuclear bombs, and the adoption of a new "surface-to-surface" missile with a range of about 500 km to replace the "Lance" missile. The second element of the program, however, is opposed by the majority of European countries, which has forced the NATO leadership to postpone the replacement of the "Lance" missiles until 1992.

At the same time, France is completing preparation for the adoption of the new "Hades" missile with a range of 350-500 km, to replace the "Pluton" missile. An increase in the number of launchers from 36 to 90, and according to some sources as many as 180, is expected for the new missiles. Furthermore, since 1986 the French have been equipping their tactical aircraft with ASMP nuclear missiles with a range of about 300 km.

A joint Anglo-American decision was made at the beginning of this year to modernize nuclear systems. It is noteworthy that the implementation of this plan is camouflaged in an overall package of measures to change the U.S. military presence in Great Britain, which includes the withdrawal, starting in 1992, of the 14th U.S. Navy nuclear submarine [SSBN] squadron from the Holy Loch base, and the replacement of the F-111 fighter-bombers with modernized F-15E aircraft. A squadron of U.S. multipurpose nuclear submarines, each carrying 12 "Tomahawk" cruise missiles, the nuclear version of which has a range of about 2,600 km (a range of over 4,000 km is projected for the future) could be stationed at the Holy Loch base.

For the F-15E aircraft, it is planned to site about 130 missiles in Great Britain, which are being developed in accordance with the tactical air-to-surface missile program. It is also planned to equip "Tornado" and F-16 aircraft with these missiles. Arming the tactical air force with nuclear missiles will significantly increase its capabilities of overcoming air defense and striking at installations deep in enemy territory. Basically, the new aircraft and the "Tomahawk" sea-launched cruise missile are operational systems, and this testifies not only to the desire to implement a tactical nuclear weapons modernization program, but also to a dangerous attempt to

increase the strike power of nuclear systems in Europe, getting around the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

The planned siting in Europe of new nuclear weapons systems that are expected to operate in the 21st century creates serious political and psychological difficulties for the tactical nuclear weapons talks, and drags European countries into a new spiral of the arms race.

The constructive resolution of the tactical nuclear weapons problem that the Soviet side is proposing is meant to promote the achievement of genuine security on the European continent and will enable us to rely not on nuclear arsenals in international relations, but on political methods. Europe does not want nuclear weapons. Even without these it is saturated with highly dangerous military, chemical, and biological installations.

CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

U.S. Position on Chemical Weapons Praised

*LD1505155191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak
Network in Russian 0930 GMT 15 May 91*

[Vladimir Pasko commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Bush has announced that the United States is officially renouncing the use of chemical weapons as soon as the convention banning chemical weapons comes into force. The President also announced that after the convention comes into force, the United States intend to destroy within 10 years all its chemical arsenal. Over to our commentator, Vladimir Pasko:

[Begin Pasko recording] The President's statement marks a radical change in the position of the United States on the issue of chemical weapons. Until recently, Washington was insisting on its right to keep up to 2 percent of its current chemical arsenal even if everyone else destroys their chemical weapons.

This position was reflected in the Soviet-U.S. agreement last year on a radical cut in stocks of the chemical weapons of both countries. The main point of that agreement was to give an impulse to the elaboration of the international convention on a complete and general ban on chemical weapons, being worked out in Geneva by 40 states. It must be said that even during the preparation of the agreement, the Soviet Union pointed out to the United States that the right they were defending lowered the effectiveness of the initiative.

At that time, the United States insisted on sticking to its guns. It advanced as grounds that as long as just one country had chemical weapons, it was a threat to the United States. Now Washington has abandoned its previous position. A spokesperson for the U.S. Administration essentially admitted that its unwillingness to

embark on complete destruction of chemical weapons had acted as a brake on the talks in Geneva.

So what pushed the administration into reconsidering its views? The American press, which long ago reported that the initiative was in preparation, has highlighted two factors: The President believes that the role of chemical weapons in strengthening national security is not so great as to justify keeping them, even as a deterrent, wrote U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT at the end of April. The second factor is the recent war in the Persian Gulf area, during which there was a real threat felt that the sides might use chemical weapons. It did not come to the point of using them, but the existence of the threat showed more strongly than any warnings that the world must be saved from chemical weapons and real barriers must be erected on the path to their expansion. In other words, the Geneva conference had to be rescued from stagnation.

The elaboration of an international convention on the complete and general banning of chemical weapons still has to overcome many obstacles. Today's decision by the White House will certainly be a stimulus to the conference. This is no bad piece of news for Soviet-American relations. It has shown again that the two sides are very close in their evaluation of the threats looming over the world. Both the Soviet Union and the United States have an equally unfavorable attitude to the existence of chemical weapons. [end recording]

Bush Initiative on Chemical Weapons Ban Noted

PM1605135191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 May 91 Union Edition p 1

[From IZVESTIYA, TASS, RIA, AZIYA-PRESS, POST-FAKTUM, REUTER, and IAN roundup: "Statement by U.S. President"]

[Text] President Bush has put forward an initiative in the sphere of chemical weapons. He stated, in particular: The Gulf War has once again evoked the specter of chemical weapons and demonstrated that unscrupulous regimes can and will threaten populations with these weapons of terror for as long as we allow their existence. These events reinforce my conviction, which is shared by responsible leaders in other countries, that chemical weapons must be banned throughout the world. The best hope for the world in achieving this goal is a chemical weapons convention, talks on which are now being conducted at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. I have instructed the U.S. delegation at the Geneva talks to implement my decisions at the next session, which begins 14 May. Demonstrating U.S. commitment to a chemical weapons ban, we officially renounce the use of these weapons for any purpose, including inflicting a retaliatory strike, against any state. This decision will be effective when the convention banning chemical weapons comes into force. The United States unconditionally commits itself to destroying all its chemical weapon reserves within 10 years of when the convention

comes into force and invites all other states to follow its example. We will offer technical assistance to other states so they can do this efficiently and safely. The United States also suggests new and effective verification measures for inspecting facilities suspected of producing or storing chemical weapons. The United States confirms that it will introduce all the appropriate sanctions for violation of this treaty, especially in response to the use of chemical weapons.

Bush Chemical Weapons Policy: 'Major Progress'

PM1605155991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 16 May 91 First Edition p 3

[A. Golts "Military-Political Commentary": "A Danger They Realized Too Late"]

[Text] I cannot bring myself to write that war may produce some positive results in international life, but that is what seems to have happened this time. U.S. President G. Bush has issued a statement on the problem of chemical weapons. The Gulf war, he stressed, once again evoked the specter of chemical weapons and demonstrated that unscrupulous regimes can and will threaten terror with these weapons as long as we allow these weapons to exist. It was this fact, the head of the U.S. Administration pointed out, that prompted him to submit an initiative that should facilitate the quickest conclusion of a convention banning chemical weapons and destroying stockpiles.

What is the essence of the initiative? The United States is officially renouncing the use of chemical weapons for any purpose, including for a retaliatory strike against any state. This decision will be implemented when the convention banning chemical weapons enters into force. As far I can see, this constitutes major progress in the U.S. stance. After all, prior to this the United States admitted the possibility of using chemical weapons in retaliation even after the conclusion of the convention. This, however, aroused understandable suspicions among the other countries involved in the Geneva talks.

Another positive element is the United States' avowed readiness, regardless of other states, to destroy chemical weapons stockpiles within 10 years of the convention's entry into force. Washington did not confine itself to suggesting that other countries follow this example. It stated its readiness to offer technical assistance to ensure that the destruction of toxic agents worldwide is carried out effectively and safely.

I think that the latter is of great importance for the Soviet Union too. The USSR possesses considerable stocks of these weapons. I must be honest and admit that we have encountered serious difficulties in practically resolving the problems involved in destroying these weapons. It is the opinion of our specialists who visited Johnston Atoll in the Pacific and saw the operational installation for the destruction of chemical munitions that the Americans have made marked achievements in this sphere. So technical assistance could prove extremely opportune.

The President's statement indicates that Washington is prepared to help eliminate another obstacle retarding the conference's work. Many experts have, up to this time, expressed doubt as to the possibility of effectively verifying fulfillment of the convention. The United States has now suggested new methods of monitoring to inspect facilities suspected of producing or storing chemical weapons.

Thus many knots that seemed extremely tangled yesterday are being unraveled today with striking ease. Provided the will is there, so to speak. Will the U.S. latest initiative bring about rapid progress at the Geneva conference that began 14 May? I would, of course, like to think so. But I am afraid that a number of developing countries differ somewhat from Washington in their view of the Gulf war, experience of which prompted the U.S. President to submit the new initiatives. People in these countries saw how many problems the possibility of Iraq using toxic agents caused the mighty U.S. grouping and the psychological effect that the threat of using these weapons against peaceful cities had. I think that this might have reinforced some people's idea that chemical weapons are an effective "poor man's atom bomb." I also suspect that some states will be in no hurry to part with their chemical weapons in conditions where Washington has begun to talk about a "new world order" in which the United States is given the role of world gendarme. While some will rush to obtain them.

So people in Washington have realized too late the danger of chemical death. Both the United States and the Soviet Union must now make considerable extra effort to conclude the convention. Far more than would have been necessary had the United States submitted this initiative before war broke out in the Gulf....

Delegation 'Welcomes' U.S. Chemical Arms Plan

*LD2305165891 Moscow TASS in English 1539 GMT
23 May 91*

[By TASS correspondent Vitaliy Makarchev]

[Text] Geneva, May 23 (TASS)—The Soviet delegation welcomes new American initiatives in the field of banning chemical weapons as a contribution to the preparation of a convention on a complete ban of chemical weapons and the elimination of its stocks, Soviet delegation head Sergey Batsanov said in today's address to the Geneva Disarmament Conference.

Most participants in the negotiations, including the USSR, consider it expedient to ban the use of chemical weapons. We welcome the new position of the United States, which opens the way towards a prompt agreement on one of the main commitments of the states under the convention, the Soviet delegation head said.

The opening of the current session of the conference was marked by a notable event: On May 16, the U.S. delegation formally submitted to the conference its new proposals based on the U.S. President George Bush's statement of May 13 on the chemical weapons ban.

The American proposals, he said, offer major potential for progress towards an agreement on a range of still disputed matters. This is connected above all with the declared readiness of the United States to pledge not to use chemical weapons under any circumstances, including in retaliation, and to fully liquidate all stocks of chemical weapons and the facilities for their production within ten years after the convention goes into effect. This inspires hope, the Soviet delegation head said, that two of the crucial unresolved problems will at last be solved.

The Soviet Union pledged to sign the future convention and become its initial member first unilaterally in 1989, then on a bilateral basis with the United States in 1990 and finally jointly with the CSCE participants. We consider it important for other states to follow these good examples, Batsanov said.

U.S. Retention of Arms Could Harm CW Bid

*PM2705122391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 May 91 Union Edition p 5*

[Report by B. Moskvichev: "Two Percent in Favor of Peace. NATO Supports Abolition of Chemical Weapons"]

[Text] Brussels—NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner has reacted positively to U.S. President G. Bush's statement concerning renunciation of the use of chemical weapons [CW] provided that an international convention banning them is concluded.

In a special communique disseminated by the alliance's headquarters, M. Woerner said that he is very enthusiastic about the U.S. President's important initiative, which is intended to impart new momentum to the Geneva talks on chemical weapons.

Some NATO experts pay special attention to the part of G. Bush's statement which talks about the United States not keeping a 2-percent stock of chemical weapons. The United States had previously thought that this quantity of chemical weapons was essential and sufficient for delivering a retaliatory strike in the event of their possible use during hostilities.

The retention of a 2-percent U.S. stock could impede the conclusion of an international convention and partly contribute to the further proliferation of chemical weapons. For many months the USSR, Germany, and Britain have been putting pressure on the United States to get it to renounce its original intention to keep some small but guaranteed deterrent stock of these weapons.

A change in the U.S. stance on this question, experts believe, also occurred in the study of the results of the Persian Gulf war. Iraq's failure to use chemical weapons was due not to the fact that the Americans were able to deliver a suitable rebuff, but primarily to the concentration against it of ultramodern types of conventional armaments, the massive use of which has just as great an effect on armed forces as chemical weapons.

The new U.S. initiative in the prohibition of chemical weapons should find its continuation, a bloc expert believes, in the further elaboration of the mechanism to monitor exports of all types of chemical industry products that might be used for the production of chemical weapons. In this connection, it is believed, new initiatives will be proposed aimed at creating a committee within the UN Security Council framework to monitor implementation of the decision on the nonproliferation of chemical armaments in the very near future.

NATO experts conclude that the participants in the talks on chemical weapons, which have been going on in Geneva for nearly 20 years, should now concentrate on the final obstacle to their successful completion. This is to do with all the countries participating in the talks agreeing to inspections on demand.

NUCLEAR-FREE ZONES & PEACE ZONES

Linkage of Korean NFZ With NPT Safeguards Rejected

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

LD2305182391 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 23 May 91

[By TASS correspondents Igor Peskov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Excerpts] Moscow, May 23 (TASS)—Vice-President Gennadiy Yanayev will lead the Soviet delegation which is to leave for New Delhi where it will be present at the funeral of Rajiv Gandhi, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin told a briefing here today. [passage omitted]

The Soviet Union believes that North Korea, as a signatory of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, is directly obligated to promptly conclude a verification agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), placing all nuclear materials on its territory under guarantees of that international agency. Political demands put forth by North Korea referring to the U.S. nuclear presence on the Korean peninsula "are not directly relating to the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]," the spokesman said. The Soviet Union believes that there is no impasse there: taking into account the specifics of the situation in Korea efforts can be made to find a compromise solution.

"In this context, the United States should proceed from the interests of strengthening the international nuclear weapons regime and take steps to meet the Korean side halfway in order to create a more favorable and constructive atmosphere for the signing of a verification agreement between North Korea and the IAEA," Churkin said. [passage omitted]

Broadcast to Korea

SK2705035791 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 25 May 91

[Commentary by station commentator (Igayev)]

[Text] The Soviet Union considers it desirable for North Korea to sign a nuclear verification agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. This statement was made by Churkin, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, in a press meeting held in Moscow.

Station commentator (Igayev) writes:

By no means does this mean that Moscow is putting pressure on Pyongyang. It means that North Korea is obligated to adhere to a treaty to which it is a signatory. As is widely known, the DPRK signed the Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] in December 1985. This document expects that all signatories place all manner of their nuclear facilities under the control of the IAEA.

This notwithstanding, the DPRK has not signed the accord in question with the IAEA. This only worsens the sense of anxiety surrounding the Korean Peninsula where the issue of nuclear safety has risen so sharply.

Such a sense of anxiety stems primarily from the stationing in South Korea of U.S. troops armed with nuclear equipment. It is natural for North Korea to harbor misgivings toward this fact.

A proposal for turning the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free zone [NFZ], put forward by Pyongyang, has received affirmative responses for some time. For example, the Soviet Union and China support this idea. The proposal for creating a nuclear-free zone is more reasonable as it is expected to gain international guarantees. This, of course, is an indisputable fact.

What is at issue now, however, is adherence to an international agreement already in place. The Soviet Union sees no direct connection between Pyongyang's conditioning the signing of a verification agreement with the IAEA on the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Stressing that the Soviet Union insists that all member states of the treaty fully and unconditionally adhere to the treaty, Foreign Ministry spokesman Churkin said: At the same time, Moscow believes that the U.S. side can [words indistinct] and also take steps to meet the Pyongyang side halfway.

ASIAN SECURITY ISSUES

Gorbachev Greets Asian-Pacific Conference

*LD2005113191 Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT
20 May 91*

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Pershin]

[Text] Moscow, May 20 (TASS)—The international conference "On Peace and Security in the Northeastern Part of the Asian-Pacific Region—a Glance Into the 21st Century" opened here today.

It will discuss ways to turn the Asian-Pacific region into a zone of lasting peace, good-neighbourly relations and extensive cooperation, as well as the role of science in this vitally important process. The agenda also includes problems of economic and humanitarian cooperation in the region.

The conference was organised by the Soviet Scientists for Global Security committee jointly with the USSR Academy of Sciences, Moscow State University, the Academy of National Economy and the Committee of Youth Organisations of the USSR. It is being attended by some 100 prominent public leaders, scholars and experts from China, South Korea, Mongolia, the USSR, the United States and Japan.

A message to the conference from President Mikhail Gorbachev was read out at the opening session.

Conference Discusses Asia-Pacific Peace, Security

*LD2105224891 Moscow TASS in English 2137 GMT
21 May 91*

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow, May 21 (TASS)—Arms control in the Asian-Pacific region and the peaceful settlement on the Korean peninsula were discussed on Tuesday during the second day of work of an international conference in Moscow. The conference is being attended by political scientists, scholars, and public figures from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the United States of America (USA), Japan, China, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia.

It was noted that the focus of the danger of a third world war breaking out has shifted from Europe to Third World Countries. Being one of the planet's hot spots, Northeast Asia, according to former U.S. Congressman Bruce Morrison, deserves the world community's closer attention, primarily because nuclear weapons are deployed there.

Morrison said that the nuclear powers, such as the Soviet Union, the United States and China should work in closer cooperation to ensure the non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons in the region. Stronger political and military confidence building measures, Bruce

Morrison said, would permit a more optimistic outlook for trade, economic and humanitarian cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region.

Professor James Miller of University of Washington said the experience of German unification should be applied to solve the Korean problem. However, he said, the specifics of this problem leaves little hope that German experience could be used in full.

Professor Han Si Chu of Korea University said the settlement depended to a considerable degree on the withdrawal of American nuclear arms from the Peninsula.

According to Soviet scholar Aleksey Zagorskiy of the institute of the world economy and international relations, the main obstacle on the way towards the Korean settlement is the lack of political will. "No progress is likely to be achieved without a North-South political understanding of the type achieved in Europe", he said.

The conference will continue its work tomorrow.

Accelerated Plans for Pullout From Mongolia Announced

Monitoring Group Chief Cited

*LD2405221991 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1341 GMT 23 May 91*

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Chernov]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 23 May (TASS)—Practically all the military units of the Soviet Army which are temporarily on the territory of Mongolia will be restationed in the Soviet Union this year. This was stated by Major General Vyacheslav Mezun, chief of the group monitoring the withdrawal of Soviet troops, at a news conference held on Wednesday in the capital of the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR].

After the completion of the current, third stage in the withdrawal of Soviet troops, he said, approximately 3,000 Soviet servicemen will remain in the MPR. They will guard property and material values and prepare them for dispatching. The dispatching is held up due to the low capacity of the railway from Ulaanbaatar to the Soviet border.

An ecological group supplied with powerful engineering equipment is engaged in putting the territory in order on the sites where Soviet military units were stationed. We, stressed V. Mezun, are not ignoring the claims either of the local bodies of administration or of the nature conservation services of the MPR. Recultivation work was made more difficult in the winter. Now, I think that the demands put forward by the local ecological commissions will be met. All the territories that have been vacated will definitely be given to the local executive

administrations of people's deputies. Deeds on the handing over of the land are being drawn up together with the Mongolian side.

The units of the Soviet Army that are being withdrawn are being transferred to the Trans-Baykal Military District. According to the commander of the district's troops, the problems with their stationing will be resolved: Officers and warrant officers and their families will be provided with housing before 1992.

Military Denies Ecological Damage

*LD2705165391 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1210 GMT 27 May 91*

[Report from Ulaanbaatar by correspondent Vladimir Korolev]

[Text] The Soviet military contingent was stationed on the territory of the People's Republic of Mongolia in accordance with a corresponding agreement signed by the governments of both countries. With the improvement of the international climate, consolidation of trust between countries and their desire for mutual cooperation, it was no longer necessary to keep the Soviet force in Mongolia. It was also made possible by the normalization of relations between the USSR, Mongolia, and the People's Republic of China.

According to the Soviet Command, the complete withdrawal of the Soviet military contingent will be concluded this year already, that is, ahead of schedule. Dozens of Soviet military garrisons with living quarters, schools, canteens, medical posts, and trade complexes have been handed over to Mongolia for free use. This is obviously a great help to the Mongolian people living through a period of an acute economic crisis.

Meanwhile, even such a positive factor as the withdrawal of troops is being used by some groups in Mongolia to cloud Soviet-Mongolian relations. Thus the Mongolian Green Party has called on the government to make an estimate of the damage ostensibly caused by the Soviet military units to the environment and to demand compensation. According to the party leadership, the Soviet troops are leaving the sites of their former location in disorder, violating ecological norms. Their statement, however, has been denied by the chief of the group supervising the withdrawal, General (Mezun). Addressing a news conference in Ulaanbaatar he said that in fact the territory formerly occupied by the Soviet formations is being returned in complete order. This is confirmed by a special ecological commission provided with powerful engineering equipment.

Nevertheless, attempts by some Mongolian circles to make political capital on groundless criticism of the Soviet military cannot overshadow the fact that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Mongolia is normalizing the situation in the region and throughout Asia.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Europeans Criticize Superpowers at CFE

AU1705112791 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German
17 May 91 p 2

[Report by "B.B.": Criticism of the Superpowers"]

[Text] Vienna—At the Vienna negotiations on conventional forces in Europe (CFE), the West European countries have increasingly complained about the fact that the two superpowers do not inform the other 20 participants sufficiently on their efforts to resolve the pending CFE problems. Ruediger Hartmann, who heads the German delegation, gave vent to his annoyance on 16 May by stating: "Problems that concern the 22 parties at this table should in the future be dealt with in a way corresponding to the new spirit of cooperation between us." He said that the current practice of information by the superpowers is "not satisfactory."

Basically, the last issue preventing the conclusion of a CFE agreement is the equipment of four Soviet naval infantry regiments—more than 120 tanks, 230 artillery guns, and 750 armored vehicles.

The Soviet Union has argued that this equipment has always been assigned to the Navy, and that naval forces are not covered by the CFE agreement. The other countries argue, however, that according to a treaty principle all land-based weapons come under the agreement, and no exception can be made.

The Vienna negotiators are hoping that the talks that chief of staff Moiseyev will hold in Washington in the next few days will help clarify the issue.

FRANCE

Ministry Issues Communique on Nuclear Test

LD1805182691 Paris France-Inter Radio Network
in French 1800 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] France today carried out a nuclear test on the Mururoa site, in French Polynesia. In a communique the Defense Ministry specifies that the test took place at 1915 Paris time [1715 GMT] and that the energy released was less than 60 kilotonnes. It is the second test this month.

Spokesman on U.S. Chemical Weapons Proposal

PM2205091291 Paris LE MONDE in French
21 May 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "France 'Welcomes' U.S. Proposal To Completely Abandon Chemical Weapons"]

[Text] France "warmly welcomes" the pledge given by George Bush to completely abandon the use of chemical weapons if there is an international agreement, Elysee spokesman Hubert Vedrine said last week.

"France, which has played a key role in recent years in seeking the complete eradication of chemical weapons, is bound to warmly welcome the new proposals and new pledges given by Mr. Bush," Mr. Vedrine said, and he added that this chemical weapons question is "a very important part of the more general issue of disarmament on which France is working...."

According to the Elysee spokesman, the U.S. proposals should make it possible to draw up in Geneva "a final text of a convention to ban chemical weapons...as soon as possible."

New Zealand Stops 'Systematic' Protests at Nuclear Tests

LD2105131991 Paris France-Inter Radio Network
in French 0600 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] A further sign of the improvement in relations between France and New Zealand is that the Wellington government has let it be known that it will no longer systematically issue a protest at every nuclear test by France in the Pacific.

Initiative To Limit Arms Sales, Proliferation

AU2205162391 Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT
22 May 91

[Text] Paris, May 22 (AFP)—France is planning an initiative, in collaboration with Washington, in order to limit arms sales and ensure the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, French Prime Minister Edith Cresson said Wednesday.

The Socialist prime minister announced the initiative, but gave no further details, during a policy statement to parliament following her appointment last week. "In a spirit of peace and security for all, France has undertaken a reflection, and is planning an initiative, in close liaison with the United States, to limit arms sales and ensure the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," she said. She added that in the light of the Gulf war and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact military alliance, the French government would be taking a "new look" at its defence policy.

But she stressed that Paris remained committed to its independent nuclear strike force, which would be maintained "at sufficient levels for deterrence." "The time has come to think about the nature and number" of France's strategic nuclear weapons, she said, adding that conventional weaponry would also come under scrutiny.

French President Francois Mitterrand is expected to announce modifications in France's nuclear arsenal, currently divided into land, air and sea components, as part of an overhaul of defence strategy to be debated in parliament. France had to be prepared to "resist a major aggression in Europe alongside our European allies, and show determination to stop it whatever the cost, if necessary by the use of our deterrent force," Mrs.

Cresson said. At the same time, France should be prepared to use its Rapid Action Force for "more limited interventions in various theatres".

GERMANY

Soviet Troop Withdrawal 'According to Plan'

LD1505165291 Hamburg DPA in German 0840 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The Soviet Union so far has withdrawn 43,900 soldiers from Eastern Germany. This was announced by the Defense Ministry in Bonn on Wednesday. A total of 10,075 weapon systems and vehicles, more than 260,000 tonnes of military material, including 140,000 tonnes of munitions, have been returned to the Soviet Union. An entire division from Stendal was sent back to the Soviet Union. A complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from the land capitals of Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt, Erfurt, and Magdeburg is still planned for this year, the defense ministry revealed.

According to the Bundeswehr, the Soviet armed forces have already vacated 106 military sites, of which 87 so far have been taken over by the Germans. The German-Soviet working group confirmed that the Soviet withdrawal, which should be completed by the end of 1994, is going according to plan. Moscow's representatives emphasized that the postponement of deadlines for the withdrawal of units and divisions can indeed take place during the current or following years. This, however, will have no effect on the final deadline.

This year, as planned, 30 percent of personnel, technical equipment, armaments, and materials belonging to the Western Group should be withdrawn from Germany. The Soviet Union has 380,000 soldiers stationed in the former GDR.

Soviet Troops, Facilities in Brandenburg Detailed

AU2205072691 Berlin DER MORGEN in German 15 May 91 p 17

[Unattributed report: "Federal Property Office in Cottbus Registers Soviet Facilities"]

[Excerpts] Cottbus—[Passage omitted] On Sunday [12 May] the last high-ranking military officer of the formerly 3,000-man strong Soviet elite troops left Cottbus to return home, Security Department Head Wolfgang Bialas told the press. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of the year about 35 percent—128,000 soldiers—of the Western Group of Soviet Forces in Germany were stationed in Brandenburg. According to the Potsdam Land Government, they had 324 facilities on an area of 120,000 hectares. This is almost half of the entire territory used by the Soviet forces all over Germany. The biggest facilities are in former Potsdam Bezirk and around Templin, Prenzlau, Eberswalde, Fuerstenwalde, Luebben, and Cottbus.

Brandenburg also has most of the Soviet training areas. Lieberose (23,700 hectares), Beeskow Kreis, is one of the largest in Central Europe. Other large training areas are Heidehof (11,840 hectares), Luckenwalde/Jueterbog Kreis, as well as Schweinrich (7,000 hectares), Wittstock Kreis.

According to estimates by the land government, the Soviet troops in Brandenburg are equipped with about 1,900 tanks, 1,300 artillery systems, as well as 270 combat planes, 130 helicopters, 180 anti-aircraft missiles, and 55 other missile systems.

According to official information, 30,162 Soviet soldiers, 15,486 relatives and civilian employees, as well as 9,924 technicians from 38 locations are to leave Brandenburg in the course of this year. The focal points of the 1991 troop withdrawal are Neuruppin, Potsdam, the Olympic Village between Berlin and Nauen, as well as Kramnitz, Kirchmoeser, and Cottbus. A total of 5,742 soldiers have already been withdrawn or are on the verge of returning home.

Bonn Willing To Pay More for Soviet Withdrawal

AU1605095791 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 16 May 91 p 1

["wtr" report: "Bonn Is Willing to Pay More Money for Troop Withdrawal"]

[Text] Bonn, 15 May—Chancellor Helmut Kohl (Christian Democratic Union) is obviously willing to pay more than the planned 12 billion German marks for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Germany, which is planned to be concluded by 1994. If transportation to the USSR should be more expensive than previously calculated, one will not "turn a deaf ear" to that, the chancellor said at his party's foreign policy congress in Bonn on Wednesday [15 May].

According to what he said, Kohl expects an increase in costs, if problems should arise on the "land route," by which he meant Poland. Then the "heavy equipment" would have to be transported by ship, which is more expensive. With this Bonn wants to ensure that the date of the conclusion of the withdrawal, which has been agreed on with Moscow and is a few months before the next Bundestag elections, will be observed.

USSR's Sharin Seeks Quick Withdrawal of Forces

LD1805101191 Berlin ADN in German 0849 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—The Soviet Union is prepared to withdraw all its troops in the former GDR before 1994. This was confirmed by Leonid Sharin, chairman of the [USSR Supreme Soviet] Defense and State Security Committee in an interview with BILD AM SONNTAG.

"In fact, we would prefer to withdraw our troops immediately and not wait until 1994," he stressed. The presence of Soviet troops on German soil is no longer of any strategic importance for the Soviet Union. At the same time, Sharin accused the Federal Republic of having fallen behind with the housing construction for the troops being withdrawn. "The housing construction start was scheduled for March, but so far nothing has happened," Sharin said. He expressed the view that all things being equal the order should be given to German firms. "He who has the money should carry out the construction work," he stated.

The environmental damage on the Soviet Army site is a problem, Sharin said. Moscow regards the disused dumps of the German Wehrmacht as an additional factor. A mixed commission to investigate the damage might be set up, Sharin suggested. Only then can compensation and elimination be discussed. It is already plain, however, that the withdrawal will be more expensive than agreed. Sharin blamed the Polish side for this above all. Poland is making difficulties regarding transit so that now the more expensive sea route has to be adopted, with transportation costs rising from the agreed 1 billion to about 2 billion [currency not specified].

According to Sharin, the take-over of Soviet Army buildings in eastern Germany is no longer a condition for the withdrawal. It would be desirable, however, if the Federal Government would buy back the buildings for about 20 billion German marks.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking at a press conference in Bonn on Friday, confirmed that negotiations about this are taking place and that they are fairly controversial. He said that the estimates about the value of these establishments are about a light year apart.

Trial Inspection for Chemical Weapons Offered

*LD2105223891 Berlin ADN in German 1548 GMT
21 May 91*

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—The FRG is for the first time extending invitations for a trial inspection—by an international team—to test the "verification instrument" for a worldwide and comprehensive ban on chemical weapons and as a contribution to the current negotiations in Geneva. The trial inspection will take place at a Luftwaffe site near Bad Kreuznach on the 22 to 24 May 1991. The participants in the inspection team come from Egypt, Argentina, Great Britain, Iran, and Pakistan.

A statement by the Foreign Ministry says that for the purpose of a reliable verification of the chemical weapons convention, a verification system must be developed which will be more costly and comprehensive than the regulations under all the existing arms control agreements due to the special characteristics of the subject under negotiation. In future, every signatory state is to be granted the right to demand at short notice

an inspection of any site in another member state by the technical secretariat of the future chemical weapons organization.

'Center for Bundeswehr Verification Tasks' Opened

*AU2205150191 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER
ALLGEMEINE in German 22 May 91 p 2*

[Excerpt] Bonn, 21 May—For the first time the Bundeswehr put into operation on Tuesday [21 May] an organization that became necessary because of disarmament. It is the "Center for Bundeswehr Verification Tasks" in Geilenkirchen. At the same time, it is the first Bundeswehr agency that is subject to the defense minister regarding disciplinary law, but it is technically controlled by the Foreign Ministry. For this purpose a steering committee to which representatives of the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry belong was formed. It is the task of the center to carry out the inspections to which Germany is entitled in other states by the treaties that have been concluded so far and, on the other hand, to support the inspectors of these states if, for their part, they carry out inspections on German soil. Moreover, the center for verification tasks is responsible for the evaluation of the collected information and the development of a military situation report for arms control. In this way the Federal Government is to be reliably briefed on whether, and how, the disarmament agreements are observed.

When the center was put into operation, its director, General Loquai, especially pointed out the political importance of his newly created authority in Geilenkirchen. The way in which the members of the center carry out their inspection tasks directly contributes to confidence-building. The Federal Government must be sure that the inspection tasks are reliably fulfilled because the observation of treaties that it concluded is at issue, he said. The development of the center was started as early as January last year. This year on 2 April the center was able to start its work. It presently has more than 300 employees, two-thirds of whom are officers and one-fourth civilians. By next April the number of its employees is to be increased to 530.

The center has a branch office in Strausberg, east of Berlin. At present, 135 employees are working there. It is the core of the former verification center of the GDR National People's Army [NVA]. It has to fulfill all verification and inspection tasks in the new laender, in which the Western Group of the Soviet Armed Forces will be deployed by the end of 1993. Moreover, many former NVA weapons systems encompassed by the inspection clauses of the CFE [Conventional Forces in Europe] Treaty, which was signed in Paris last November, are in the new laender. This results in an especially great workload for the verification authority. [passage omitted]

Stoltenberg Details Bundeswehr Reduction Plans

*LD2405125291 Hamburg DPA in German 1048 GMT
24 May 91*

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg has announced economic assistance for economically underdeveloped regions from which the Bundeswehr is to withdraw. Relevant plans are being prepared by the responsible federal ministries, Stoltenberg said today when presenting his future plans for deployment of the Bundeswehr. In accordance with these plans, 213 bases [Standorte] of a total of 688 bases in the old federal laender are to be closed down completely. The planned changes are to be carried out mainly in 1993 and 1994.

Stoltenberg said that the federal government would link the reduction in numbers of the Bundeswehr to 370,000 by 1994 with a number of additional measures. For example, a law on the number of personnel would also offer a limited number of older regular servicemen the opportunity of voluntarily leaving the service early, and also create conditions for shortening the commitments of soldiers who had signed on for fixed periods. Older civilian employees at bases that are to be closed or cut back can also take voluntary early retirement from the service.

Stoltenberg said that this would be the most far-reaching structural reform of the Bundeswehr since its foundation. He now intends to give the relevant committees of the Bundestag and the laender the chance to comment on his plans by 4 July. The final decision on the new deployments is scheduled to be made in July. The minister stressed that his plan is set out in such a way that fulfillment of the military mission is guaranteed. The new arrangements are intended to lead to economic and, in view of scarce funds, financially appropriate solutions. The changes for soldiers and for civilian employees must be fashioned in a way that is socially

acceptable, and as far as possible, all regional points of view and requirements should be taken into account.

Stoltenberg explained that as far as possible troop units should be withdrawn from conurbations. There would be greater deployment of the units in country areas. The withdrawal plans of the allied forces are taken into account in his plan. Stoltenberg said that the number of personnel in Schleswig-Holstein would be reduced from 51,828 to 40,549; in Hamburg from 6,809 to 4,287; in Bremen from 1,920 to 1,529; in Lower Saxony from 86,681 to 59,661; in North Rhine-Westphalia from 60,810 to 50,348; in the Rhineland-Palatinate from 34,870 to 25,665; in Hesse from 28,734 to 14,589; in Saarland from 3,304 to 3,275; in Baden-Wuerttemberg from 42,768 to 29,986; and in Bavaria from 80,484 to 68,186.

According to Stoltenberg, 1,852 soldiers will be stationed in Berlin; 22,354 in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania; 19,883 in Brandenburg; 8,056 in Saxony-Anhalt; 8,006 in Thuringia; and 6,174 in Saxony. In Schleswig-Holstein, 22 bases will be closed; in Lower Saxony 39; in North Rhine-Westphalia 33; in Rhineland-Palatinate 30; in Hesse 18; in Baden-Wuerttemberg 40; in Bavaria 31; and in Saarland, only St. Ingbert will be closed.

As well as being harshly criticized, Stoltenberg's concept also met with approval. Free Democratic Party Deputy Guenther Nolting described the plan for bases as "balanced." Lower Saxony Interior Minister Gerhard Glogowski, Social Democratic Party, on the other hand, called Stoltenberg's approach a "dilettante performance." The great opportunity to celebrate troop reductions as a "day of joy" had been missed because of the secretive way in which the Federal Government had dealt with the reductions. The German Bundeswehr Association urged that a law be drafted on the personnel aspects of the deployment decisions. Bernd Wilz, defense policy spokesman of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union parliamentary group, described the plan as a logical and convincing basis for planning.

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